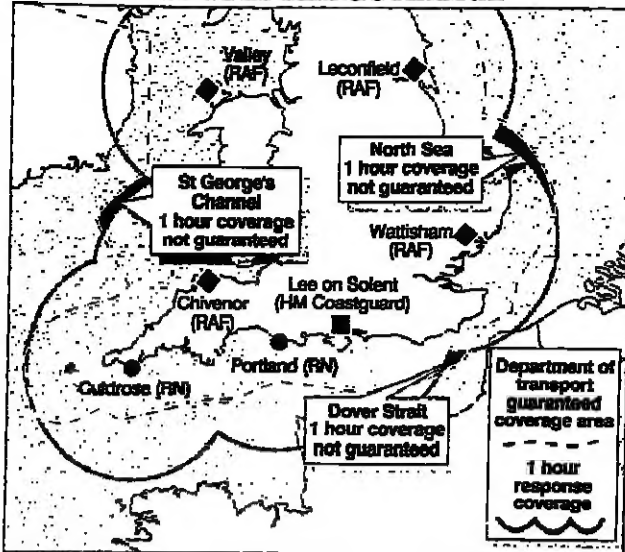


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MPs listen to Mayday from coastguards in crisis

NEW SEARCH AND RESCUE DAYTIME HELICOPTER COVERAGE



THE House of Commons is to look into allegations by many coastguards that search and rescue air cover around Britain's coast is growing dangerously thin since the closure of three RAF stations.

Anxiety centres on the busy Dover Strait, the North Sea off The Wash, and the St George's Channel off the coast of Wales, where helicopter deployment cuts mean rescue services can no longer guarantee a response within an hour of a Mayday call.

Concern has been exacerbated by the Government's continuing failure to announce any replacement for the search and rescue facility at the doomed Royal Navy base at Portland. Doubts are also growing over emergency cover west of the Shetlands

Claims that government cuts in air rescue services, designed to save £6.5 million, are putting lives at risk will be heard in the Commons. Michael Horsnell reports

where major oil fields are being developed in areas already beyond the reach of a one-hour response from Scottish stations.

Questions about the adequacy of air cover, which is provided mainly by 19 Sea King helicopters from 10 RAF and naval stations co-ordinated by the Coastguard Agency, are to be tabled in the Commons by Joan Walley, MP, the Labour transport spokeswoman. She told *The Times*: "The Government cannot hide behind what it calls

efficiency savings. There are parts of the coast where the civil rescue service is inadequate. Delay in rescue does cost lives."

Changes in the shape of the RAF search and rescue force, designed to save £6.5 million a year, have come after the closure of RAF Manston in Kent, whose cover has been transferred to RAF Watlington, Suffolk; RAF Brawdy, Dyfed, whose cover has been transferred to RAF Chivenor, Devon; and RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, which

has no direct replacement. Standards for search and rescue cover were laid down in 1986 by the Helicopter Coverage Group (HCG) of the Coastguard Agency, the RNLI and the Transport Department, and allow for a 15-minute scramble.

In a report last year on search and rescue services, the Commons transport committee noted that daytime standards could no longer be met in the Dover Strait, North Sea and St George's Channel which are "intensively used by shipping".

The committee, chaired by former transport secretary Paul Channon, said it was "extremely concerned" and recommended saving search and rescue facilities at Manston and Brawdy. Last

August, after the Channel ferry *Sally Star* caught fire off Ramsgate, it emerged that a helicopter from RAF Watlington would have taken 30 minutes to fly to her directly, 12 minutes longer than it would have taken from Manston.

The transport committee is studying a 13-page submission from Jim Evans, a former Fleet Air Arm search and rescue veteran who resigned recently from the Coastguard claiming that government cuts were putting lives at risk.

Mr Evans told *The Times*: "The Coastguard need another two to three helicopters to do the job properly. The position along the south coast is inadequate. Spending restrictions mean we are playing with lives."

Opt-out schools avoid bigger classes

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

MOST opt-out schools have avoided the increases in class sizes that have brought their local authority counterparts to the brink of industrial action, a survey of teachers shows today.

Almost three quarters of staff in grant-maintained schools said their classes had not become larger over the past two years. Little more than a third of teachers in local authority schools could say the same. Three teaching unions are considering action on the issue of class sizes.

But Sir Robert Balchin, chairman of the Grant-Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "It is GM schools that are effectively tackling this problem. If the teaching unions want to take action on reducing class sizes, the best they can do would be to drop their opposition to GM status."

The publication of the results has been timed to coincide with the opening of the National Association of Head Teachers' annual conference in Harrogate today. Delegates are expected to distance the association from any refusal to teach large classes.

Head teachers declined to put staffroom unity at risk during the dispute over national curriculum tests by ordering staff to defy their unions' boycott. This time, however, they are likely to say that refusing to teach oversized classes would place them in breach of contract and liable to disciplinary action.

In spite of their concerns over funding, many heads believe that industrial action over class sizes would be unpopular with parents and ineffective. But the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers has already warned that headline response from head and governors could push members into strike action.

Leaders of grant-maintained schools believe that their staff in most parts of the country are unlikely to support action. Only 21 per cent of the sample of 400 teachers in opt-out schools, polled by Research International, said their classes had grown in the past two to three years. The rate among a similar sample of teachers at local authority schools was 38 per cent.

More than half of teachers in opt-out schools, compared with 28 per cent in the local authority sector, said that morale had improved over the same period. Four out of five teachers in opt-out schools opposed the forcible return of their schools to local authorities.



Sir Robert: effective

Morris accused of 'sexist claptrap' by union rival

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE struggle for the leadership of the Transport and General Workers' Union intensified yesterday as Bill Morris, its general secretary, was accused of using "sexist claptrap" to undermine his opponent.

Mr Morris's rival for leadership of Britain's second largest union, Jack Dromey, said that his wife Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, had been dragged into the contest unnecessarily.

Mr Morris has questioned the suitability of Mr Dromey because of his marriage to Miss Harman, who is an ally

of Tony Blair. Sources close to Mr Morris say that if Miss Harman became Employment Secretary, she would have divided loyalties — to her husband and the party — over issues such as the minimum wage.

Mr Dromey said yesterday on BBC Radio 4: "It is highly unfortunate that Bill attacked my wife, and it is sexist claptrap to suggest she can't look after her constituents and the interests of the Labour Party, and that I can't look after the interest of my members and rebuild the T&G. We both have a very clear view

about the nature of the relationship, but one built on independence and integrity."

Mr Dromey said that the current relationship between Labour and the union was a disaster and needed to be better managed. "We have a common history and a common destiny, but separate roles," Mr Dromey, who is seen as the rightwing candidate, has based much of his campaign on presenting the moderate face of trade unionism, arguing that it needs to reform in the same way as the Labour Party.

"For a union with a great past to have a great future, we need a modern and dynamic leadership able to take the union into the 21st century," Mr Dromey said yesterday. "At the heart of this election battle lies this simple truth: either we modernise as a union, or we are doomed to decline and irrelevance."

He said that members were mystified that the only time that they saw Mr Morris in public was when he was attacking Mr Blair.

Mr Morris immediately hit back, denying that there was any rift between him and the Labour leader. "Tony Blair is a longstanding friend of mine. We meet regularly and we have discussions," he said.

"He understands the relationship has to be one that supports the Labour Party... but we must also be independent for our members." He argued that the union was not an extension of the party. "We are about winning in the workplace."

He defended his decision to award an 11 per cent pay rise to top officials. Sources close to Mr Dromey, who says that he will turn down the pay rise, said that the offer looked like an election bribe.

Mr Morris replied yesterday that a comparability study last June showed that officers were not being paid well in comparison with other unions. "The reason for that is some of our officers get service pay, and some don't. We believe in the rate for the job, so we have abolished service pay. Some people will not get a penny. I will get about £2. If it's a problem, I will hand it back. A few low-paid officers will be brought up."

Ballot papers for the election go out to the union's 950,000 members this week for return by June 16. The result will be announced a week later.



William Waldegrave greets one of the 300 people protesting in Brussels against the export of live animals

Milk depots are hit Protesters urge EU ban on live exports

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Continued from page 1
constable, said nobody had claimed responsibility for the attacks. "We have a number of lines of inquiry, including the possibility that animal rights people were responsible," he said. "It would take more than one person to carry out these attacks. It is possible that the same group of people drove between the two depots."

David Yeomans, for Milk Marque, said guards were being introduced at depots. "We understand these incendiary devices were fairly sophisticated. If it was animal rights campaigners, I think they may be targeting the milk industry rather than Milk Marque," he said.

Milk Marque is a co-operative formed after the recent disbanding of the

Milk Marketing Board so that farmers could continue to market their milk. It handles just over 50 per cent of the milk produced. About 1,000 farms in Cheshire use Milk Marque.

Mr Yeomans said: "We are drafting in vehicles from other parts of England and Wales to fill the vacuum caused by these attacks. Collections from farms will be delayed for up to five hours, but the point on the doorstep and in shops and supermarkets will not be affected."

If the arson attacks are linked to animal rights groups, it will be yet another stage in their battle originally launched in the 1970s, which has caused damaged costing millions of pounds.

Bernard Levin, page 16

PROTESTERS from across the European Union gathered outside a meeting of farm ministers in Brussels yesterday, demanding a ban on the export of live animals. They blew whistles and shouted at ministers, who have been deadlocked for 22 months over proposals to improve conditions for the animals.

The protesters boomed as a Swedish lorry, equipped with sprinklers and fans to cool animals, parked outside the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. William Waldegrave, the Minister of Agriculture, toured it with his counterparts from Ireland, Germany, The Netherlands

and Denmark, at the invitation of the Swedish Agriculture Minister.

Ministers from southern member states did not take part in the tour. They say that stricter rules would make imports of live animals uneconomical, and jobs would be lost.

Mr Waldegrave said the lorry was a practical step towards higher standards. "I hope we can win round the southerners," he said, adding that the protest showed the strength of public feeling. He walked over to talk to protesters from the RSPCA. He said he hoped that a framework would be set for an agreement next month.

Historians welcome Radio 4 series

Continued from page 1
people know that the emperor Claudius (41 BC to AD 54) captured Colchester and brought elephants here to do it," he said. "I will also try to explain things like why the Romans packed their bags and left England in 410, and why George I did not speak any English."

Although he intends the series to be "honest" and "straight-forward", Mr Lee believes it is bound to be controversial. "I

am using Churchill as a starting point to provide continuity, but it is basically my interpretation. I can't imagine there is a single historian in this country who will not have a go at it. It is an impossible task for one person to write the history of England without being criticised."

Historians, however, have welcomed the series. Lord Blake, former Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, said: "There is a deplorable ignorance of English history,

and it is very badly taught in schools, so I would approve of anything like this." Norman Stone, professor of Modern History and a fellow at Worcester College, Oxford, said that popularising history was "a very good idea".

Listeners will be able to send for education packs. The daily episodes, which will go out between 10.15am and 10.30am and will be repeated in the evenings, will begin next Monday.



Sir Robert: effective

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'Accidents don't come much worse'

Police name six teenagers killed in fireball crash

By Lucy Berrington

SIX teenagers died of suffocation when their car hit a tree in south London and exploded into a fireball, it was disclosed yesterday.

A post-mortem examination at Greenwich mortuary showed that the cause of death was asphyxiation. The occupants of the red Metro driven by a 19-year-old woman were enjoying a night out when their car hit a tree in Eltham and exploded into flames. It was not clear where the six had been for the evening or why so many had been crammed into the car. Police said there was no suspicion that the car had been stolen.

Officers struggled through Saturday night and most of Sunday to confirm the identities of the six, asking anyone with teenage friends or relatives who had failed to return home to call them with descriptions of clothing and jewellery. They later named the victims as Victoria Rainham, 18, of Orpington, south London, who was driving; Maria Tickner, 17, of Orpington; Daniel Garwood, 17, of Eltham; Stewart Innes and Mark Higgins, both 17, and Daniel Spencer, 19, all from Eltham.

The only remaining signs of the teenagers' night out were melted asphalt and the blackened leaves of the tree, which

stands at a notorious accident blackspot. Members of the public placed flowers around the base of the tree yesterday as dozens of friends of the teenagers gathered in mourning.

Ryan Cruise, 18, was shaken at the loss of his friends. He said: "We always had a laugh. We had known each other for years — since primary school. They never got into trouble. It doesn't seem fair." He said many of the six had been fellow pupils at Crownwood School in Eltham.

William Pethick, 85, said: "I was in the bathroom when there was an almighty crash. I could see the flames reflecting in the room. There were other neighbours trying to help but the flames were too fierce and 25 feet high. We got a few crashes along the road but I have never seen anything like this."

Frank Symes, 74, said: "As the flames got higher I could smell flesh. It's a small I remember from the war."

The Metro, heading downhill along Westmount Road, went out of control just after 11pm when one wheel hit a traffic island installed by Greenwich council last year as part of a traffic-calming scheme. The car struck the kerb and went into a spin before hitting a tree and

exploding into a fireball. The road is notorious for speeding. Ambulance crews and 20 firefighters attended the scene after receiving numerous calls from the public. Douglas Inglis, a traffic sergeant, said: "The scene was pretty horrendous — a burnt-out car with six people in it. I don't think it comes much worse."

Edith Norton, 66, a neighbour said: "The fire was so intense it set fire to the tree and the car kept exploding. The only consolation is that I don't think those children would have suffered. I think they were unconscious."

The Rev John Thewlis kept a night vigil at the scene. He said: "My heart goes out to the families. There was nothing anyone could have done for those poor souls. We will be remembering them in our services."

Peter Bottomley, MP for Eltham and former roads minister, later led a bunch of white chrysanthemums on the melted tarmac. He said: "This is one of the worst tragedies we've seen for very many years around here."

A boy of 12 was in intensive care with serious head injuries last night after a joyride with a 13-year-old friend ended when the car swerved into a tree. The driver, from Chelmsford, Essex, took the keys to his father's Vauxhall Cavalier at 2am yesterday and crashed while being followed by a police car.

He and one of his two passengers ran away leaving their badly injured friend in the wreckage. A police spokeswoman said: "He was frightened when the police arrived and went too fast trying to get away. It's unbelievable that three young children should be out committing crime in the middle of the night. What were their parents doing?"

The injured boy was taken to Broomfield Hospital and was said to be in a stable condition. The driver was being questioned by police.



Acting Sgt Danny Casey with the potentially lethal device found in a primary school playground

Flame thrower found in school

By Lucy Berrington

CHILDREN as young as nine are making potentially lethal "flame-throwers" in part of the latest school craze that police believe may be inspired by violent video games. One home-made device was found in a Gloucestershire primary school playground.

The makeshift weapon found at St John's Church of England primary school at Coleford was made from an aerosol can attached to lengths of exhaust pipe and drapings. It was probably the handiwork of an older child, possibly a brother or friend of a young pupil, police said yesterday.

William Lowe, the headmaster, said: "It is potentially so dangerous. I have heard there is a craze for just lighting aerosols but this thing was really quite sophisticated."

Silence on Reeve paralysis claim

By Adam Fresco

DOCTORS declined to comment yesterday on the condition of Christopher Reeve, the star of the Superman films, who is in hospital with a neck injury after being thrown from his horse.

He was taken to the University of Virginia's medical centre in Charlottesville on Saturday where his injuries were being evaluated last night. There is speculation that he has been partially paralysed.

Reeve, 43, was hurt when his horse skied, throwing him to the ground. Doctors at the scene decided that he needed specialist care and he was taken to hospital by air ambulance.

Last night his wife Dana and two teenage children from a former relationship, Matthew and Alexandra, were at his bedside. Lisa Kestelerc, his agent, said: "He is in a stable condition and is under close supervision by the doctors. He has a neck injury but I do not know how serious it is."

A spokesman at the hospital said that Reeve's family had asked hospital officials not to comment on the nature or extent of the injuries.

Reeve, who owns several horses, was competing with about 300 others in a dressage and horse-jumping event when the accident happened. He was approaching the third jump of a 15-jump course when "something spooked the horse", Monk Reynolds, owner of Commonwealth Park in Calpe, said. Reeve appeared to suffer a neck injury and was carried off the field on a stretcher.

Reeve, the 6ft 4in star of more than 20 films, including the four highly successful Superman films, lives in New York but spends a lot of time at his estate in Virginia, where he keeps his horses.

Ex-policeman dies after two men set him ablaze

By Emma Wilkins

A RETIRED policeman died from burns after he was set on fire by two men who burst into his home and soaked him with petrol. David Stedman, 69, ran screaming from his flat and died 13 hours later in hospital.

Police, who have begun a murder inquiry, are considering the possibility that the killing in Leicester Royal Infirmary after telling doctors that he had been attacked by two men whom he did not know. When he ran from the first floor flat, neighbours smothered his blazing clothes with a quilt.

Detectives found evidence of a break-in but nothing had been stolen. They said there had been vandalism in the street in the past few months, including cars being set on fire. Mr Cox described the area as a "community with problems".

Mr Stedman had been married twice. His first wife is dead and he was divorced from his second wife, Christine, five years ago. She still lives at the two-bedroom flat with a lodger but the couple

were away at the weekend. Mr Stedman, who had two adult children from his first marriage, was a police constable in the 1960s in Gosport before moving to Leicester eight years ago. After retiring from Hampshire Police he joined the Royal Navy as a steward at HMS Dryad in Portsmouth.

His son Kevin, 36, who lives in Portsmouth, said: "His biggest thrill was serving Prince Charles in the wardroom on a number of occasions when he visited Portsmouth. He wouldn't boast about it, but it was clear that he considered it a real honour."

"My father was fine man. How anyone who could do this to him is beyond belief. We are deeply shocked and numb by the brutal way in which Dad died."

"We want answers to why and how this could have happened."



Firemen with the Metro in which six people died

Egg thieves steal from osprey nest

By A Staff Reporter

THIEVES stole osprey eggs from a nest in the Scottish Highlands yesterday. It is the sixth nest to have been raided this year.

The theft occurred at a nest near Loch Garten, northeast of Aviemore. It is not known how many eggs were in the nest, but all were stolen.

The existence of the nest was being kept secret by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, whose volunteers are mounting a 24-hour guard on another site near by.

"It is impossible to watch all the nests all the time," David Minnis, the society's head of public affairs, said yesterday. "To kill young birds like this in this day and age is an archaic practice. It is quite disgraceful."

The guarded nest, which is in the Loch Garten nature reserve, contains three eggs, one of which hatched on Sunday. The volunteers hope that the other two will hatch later this week.

How to win friends and influence colleagues

By Robin Young

THE worst sins that office workers can commit in the eyes of colleagues are interrupting people on the telephone, talking loudly in front of someone's desk and arriving late for a meeting.

It is almost as bad to eat at your desk, make personal telephone calls or leave coffee cups lying around, according to a guide published by the Industrial Society. *Bodytalk: The Skills of Positive Image*, a guide to etiquette at work, lists 30 traits identified in a recent Coopers & Lybrand survey as most likely to annoy colleagues.

High on the list are signing on at someone else's computer terminal without signing off afterwards, and messing up the photocopier by jamming the paper or leaving it in multiple-copy mode.

Reading newspapers, doodling, chewing gum, keeping cuddly toys or ornaments on your desk and putting up postcards or supposedly witty

slogans all invite disapproval. Popularity is unlikely to be accorded to those who never fetch a colleague a drink from the machine, or who fail to hold the lift-door open when others are approaching.

Such conduct, according to Judi James, *Bodytalk's* author, not only gives you an unprofessional image but is downright anti-social and could result in dismissal.

Whether that is really likely, she says, may be judged by the way your superiors behave towards you. Foot-tapping, pen-clicking and sighing before greeting you are signs of irritation. It is worse if those senior to you hover behind your desk or interrupt when you are on the telephone.

Power-posturing by your boss — sitting on your desk, picking up your pen without asking you, or shouting, may mean that he feels threatened. It is distinctly ominous if the boss avoids you or is particularly patronising. Miss James

says that means your P45 could be on the way.

Fashions in body language have changed, she says. Eighties-style power-posturing by aggressive executives — the bone-crunching handshake, the close-up stance, the domineering voice — are out of favour. Today's ideal executive treats colleagues with the respect he would a client, is punctual and positive-minded and discusses issues.

Eye contact is vital, *Bodytalk* emphasises; in general, the more, the better. Those who have difficulty looking their colleagues in the eye should practise staring at their dog, Miss James says. "It might make him twitchy but it is easier to start with pets than humans. If you cannot even meet your dog's gaze you will know you have serious insecurity problems."

Bodytalk: The Skills of Positive Image (The Industrial Society: £9.95)

Director fights ban on torture film

By Dalya Alberge

A YOUNG British film-maker is fighting an effective ban by censors on his first feature film, about a woman who flies up and tortures a man she picks up in a bar.

The British Board of Film and Video Classification has denied a video release to Ray Brady's *Boy Meets Girl* until it sees how the critics react. But no distributor is likely to take on a film, particularly one by an unknown director, without video rights. Although the film has been allowed a cinema release, it is not picked up by a distributor. It will not be shown in cinemas and the critics will have little chance to review it.

Brady's story has sparked a fierce debate in *Sight and Sound*, the magazine partly funded by the British Film Institute, whose latest issue features a history of film censorship. In a letter to the magazine Sally Sampson, a former censor, expresses her



Boy Meets Girl has been refused a video release

concern about "the monopoly over film and video classification enjoyed by the [board] and the potentially inhibiting effects... on young British film-makers wishing to explore difficult subjects rather than playing it safe".

She describes the film's message as "firmly anti-violence, no hymn to sadism"

and points out that "if films depended on good notices from the critics for classification, cinemas and video stores would be closing down all over the country".

In the same issue, David Blewitt, another former censor, refers to the "sheer hypocrisy" of the censorship. "The board... prefers to

keep its head down and merely to react to public pressures. What [it] should be doing is educating and guiding the public."

Margaret Ford, deputy director of the board, said the cinema version of *Boy Meets Girl* was submitted for classification in January and granted an 18 certificate the following month. The reason that certification took so long was because "the troubling nature of the film required more than one viewing".

Brady claimed that James Ferman, the board's director, told him that violence should be fun and "he couldn't understand why anyone would make a film with violence in it that wasn't entertaining. That left me with my jaw hanging open."

He added: "Censors are editing violence in a way that makes it more attractive. Real violence should be painful to watch."

Scriptwriting contest, page 5

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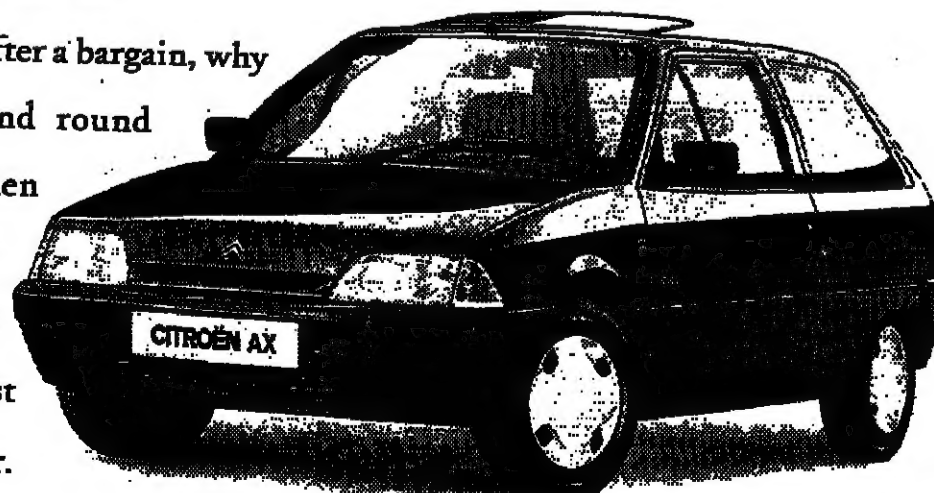
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'Jean Muir's designs are her finest tribute: enduring, tasteful, irresistible and unmistakable'



Jean Muir: a modest practitioner among the egocentric

Brilliant mistress of the little black dress

THERE is one question people always ask a fashion editor: "Who is your favourite designer?" My answer has always been: Jean Muir.

In an industry that relies upon novelty and innovation, the diminutive designer stood head and shoulders above the rest with her vision of fashion: that women's clothes should be simple, flattering and easy to wear. Her understated style was the definition of modern chic: elegant and effortless.

The appeal of her pared-down clothes is astounding. They are admired by fashion editors and customers alike. Among those who love to wear Jean Muir are the actresses Patricia Hodge and Joanna Lumley — a house model in the 1970s — the writer Antonia Fraser and the artist Bridget Riley. Muir clothes are expensive because she insisted on quality fabrics that responded to her fluid lines: jersey and silk jersey, wool, crepe, suede, cashmere and the softest leather. To her basic palette of navy, black and grey (Miss

Iain R. Webb, the Times fashion editor, pays tribute to the designer whose death at the age of 66 was announced yesterday after a career of nearly 40 years

Muir herself invariably wore black or navy blue) she added shocks of red, turquoise, yellow or pink.

Whenever I have had her creations hanging in my office, women would quickly gather to see — and, if they were lucky, to try on — these remarkably unremarkable fashions. Her clothes allow women to feel comfortable and look elegant.

Yet Miss Muir, as she was respectfully referred to, was as modest as her designs. Among the industry's egocentric celebrities, her unpretentious outlook was

rare. She referred to herself as a dressmaker and cut through any pompous analysis of her work as deftly as she might slice into a piece of navy blue jersey or shocking pink suede. "I'm not hung up about clothes," she once told me.

But she cared passionately about them. More than anything she adored the exacting process of her trade. "If I want to put my staying power down to anything," she said, "it is because I am a good technician."

Miss Muir's technique was nothing short of brilliant. The quintessential little black jersey dresses, for which she is perhaps best known, are testament to her talent. To make a dress that looks so simple requires tremendous skill. It is a long, exhausting process that demands not only precise cutting but endless fittings and minute adjustments.

Miss Muir loved these fittings, trying on everything she designed. She would stand in front of a long mirror, painstakingly studying the reflection. She in-



At work: "Remember you are covering a body that moves"

spected her work, looking for mistakes, pinning and repinning the fabric until she was finally happy with its silhouette. It was an arduous task, of which, thankfully, she never tired.

Her approach to her profession was uncommonly pragmatic. "When designing clothes, you must remember that you are

covering a body that moves," she said. "That is the reason for the craft." Her clothes are indeed her finest tribute. They are enduring, tasteful, irresistible and unmistakable, a permanent reminder of the remarkable energy and refinement that was Miss Muir.

Obituary, page 19

Former banker chairs inquiry into Yard fraud

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER chairman of Barclays Bank is overseeing Scotland Yard's inquiry into how a senior official stole £5.2 million from police funds and its plans to tighten controls on the £1.7 billion Metropolitan Police annual budget.

The investigation into how Tony Williams, who was jailed for 7½ years, got away with fraud for nearly 12 years has become one of the first tasks for Sir John Quinton as head of a new Metropolitan Police committee. Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and his officials are to face questions about the case from the Commons Public Accounts Select Committee next month.

A report on the case and plans for change have been presented to Sir John. Graham Angel, the Receiver who controls all civilian staff, has also discussed the case with him and his committee.

Earlier this month Williams, once a deputy director of finance at the Yard, admitted stealing from a secret IRA intelligence account. The account was never audited. He was never vetted and had complete control of the cash.

Sir John told *The Times*, in the first interview since the launch of the committee last month: "I find it extraordinary so much money could go out on a single signature." He said that he might be kept informed in future of general details of special funding for London policing.

The main roles of the committee, which will advise the Home Secretary, are to

scrutinise the Yard's annual budget and monitor its performance. The Yard will face having to put a price on some of its policing jobs, even though they may be difficult to cost.

Committee members will also sit on certain selection boards for senior officers and attend inspections carried out by the Home Office's inspectors of Constabulary.

Sir John said that the committee was a compromise between a completely independent police authority and control by civil servants. He expected that there could be clashes as the committee and Sir Paul drew up the annual policing plan and attempted to balance it against the budget.

"I am sure there will be elements of creative tension and at the end of the day Sir Paul can go to the Home Secretary or I can go to the Home Secretary," he said. "We have a remit to agree on priorities for policing and if we can't agree a costed plan then we are each going to have to go over the other's head."

The committee sits once a month but its deliberations will not be public. An annual report will be published.

Critics have attacked the Home Office for giving London a committee that lacks the powers of police authorities for other forces and is unrepresentative of Londoners. However, Sir John said that the members brought experience from other organisations. "Most of the committee have the benefit of starting with a blank page."

Firm in divorce row sold for £1

By EMMA WILKINS

A COMPANY director who dumped five lorries outside his former wife's home in a bitter divorce dispute has sold his business to a staff consortium for £1.

Nigel Lambert, 36, sacked 15 employees at Gazeview Plant Limited, a hire company in Aylesford, Kent, last week when solicitors acting for his former wife, Caroline, demanded an increase in maintenance payments.

Mr Lambert, from Dover, hopes to use his unemployed status to qualify for legal aid so that he can fight Mrs Lambert's demands in court. The last duty for drivers was to park the lorries outside Mrs Lambert's home in Leybourne, near West Malling, Kent.

The vehicles, which have

run up parking tickets of more than £250, will be removed today by the new owners. The couple were divorced three years ago after ten years of marriage. They have two children, Christopher, 9, and Kimberley, 7.

Mr Lambert claimed he had offered his former wife generous terms: "I offered Caroline a salary of £18,000 a year to do nothing and our four-bedroom detached house. But that wasn't enough and she wanted me to pay her £15,000 legal fees as well, so I sacked all the staff and gave her the company as well."

"It seems she doesn't want that either so I have done the next best thing and let the people who bust a gut helping me build it up to take it over."

Barney Dixon, 32, former manager of the company, is now a director. "It was not fair that we should all be made to pay for a row between these two people. So I called Nigel, and put the deal to him. It was all agreed over a pint in a Sussex pub and is completely official. The fine details of who else will be offered directorships will be sorted out in time. For now it will be business as usual," he added.

Mr Lambert said: "If they can have offers for major banks like Barings of £1, then why can't I sell my company for the same amount?"

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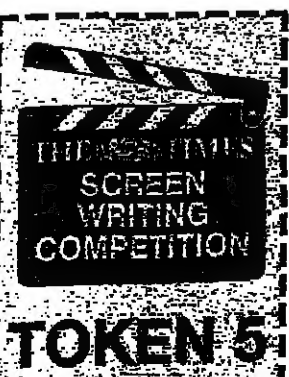
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Sex and drugs 'more stressful than poverty'

Greater freedom blamed for rise in youth crime

By CATHERINE MILTON

THE explosive rise in crime and the abuse of alcohol and drugs among young people since the Second World War may have been caused partly by teenagers' increased freedom and independence, according to a report out today.

The new world of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, coupled with rising expectations, have caused stresses that previous, more restricted, generations never had to worry about. But it rejects explanations such as unemployment and poor living conditions for what it calls "psychosocial disorders" in young people. The biggest rise in such disorders was in the 1960s, when unemployment was low.

The 846-page report, co-authored by Sir Michael Rutter, an eminent child psychiatrist, and David J. Smith, Professor of Criminology, says that more research is needed and that the post-war growth of "an isolated youth culture" is particularly worth investigating. Decisions made necessary by increased sexual freedom may have increased the stresses on young people.

The report, *Psychosocial Disorders in Young People*,

KEY FINDINGS

- Recorded crime (most committed by young people) increased tenfold in Britain between 1950 and 1993
- Nearly all developed countries have seen substantial increases in psychosocial disorders among youth since the Second World War
- Use of illicit drugs, and drug dependency, was low for those born in 1940, but rose rapidly after 1950
- Suicide rates in Europe have increased throughout the 20th century, with the most striking rise among young males between 1970 and 1990
- Between 1950 and 1973 the developed world saw a "golden era" of economic growth, low unemployment and improved living conditions. But this coincided with the main post-war rise in psychosocial disorders
- Rise in divorce may not be evidence of growing family conflict but could reflect an increasing refusal to put up with serious marital difficulties

deals with teenage problems such as suicidal behaviour, depression and eating disorders, as well as crime and the abuse of drugs and alcohol. It says that a tenfold rise in recorded crime in Britain since 1950, mostly committed by young people, is paralleled by other "sudden" and unprecedented trends such as drug and alcohol abuse.

Launching the report, Professor Smith said: "It is striking that a major increase in psychosocial disorders happened in the 'golden era' of low

unemployment and rising living standards between 1950 and 1973. Increasing psychosocial disorders are not related to deprivation or to increasing affluence in any simple way."

The report says: "There is no evidence of a sudden and substantial rise in psychosocial disorders in the 1930s, when there was a massive and sustained rise in unemployment. Still more important, the period during which the known rise in psychosocial disorders was greatest — the 1960s and early 1970s — was a

period of unusually low unemployment."

The study found a marked increase in crime in the past 40 years among people under 29. The rise varied between countries but was typically up by a factor of five per head of population. Only in Japan had the trend fallen consistently, although the United States, Australia and Canada registered declines in the 1980s.

Professor Smith said: "Japan appears to have much stronger informal, social controls on the behaviour of its young people."

The authors note that children now reach puberty earlier but take longer to reach adulthood by finishing their education and finding jobs. They are sexually active much earlier than previous generations and therefore must cope with broken relationships earlier. The study says: "The changing nature of adolescence may be among the causes of increasing disorders."

The report is based on an international study set up by Academia Europaea, an association of leading scholars across Europe, under the leadership of Sir Michael and Professor Smith, who was then at the Policy Studies Institute.

The study notes: "What seems most striking is the growth of a youth culture and of youth markets (for music, fashion and places of entertainment) which mark off adolescents as a separate group in a more decisive way than earlier in the century."

"These changes, together with the lengthening of youth and the postponement of economic independence, may tend to insulate young people from the influence of adults, in particular their parents, and increase the influence of the peer group."

"It may therefore be that it is an isolated youth culture that leads to the increase in psychosocial disorders. That theory seems worth investigating in future research."

Psychosocial Disorders in Young People, Michael Rutter and David J. Smith (published by John Wiley & Sons on behalf of Academia Europaea; £49.95)

Leading article, page 17



Not in front of the children: Cleese fires a warning on the dangers of smoking

Anti-smoking advert is criticised as too violent

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BROADCASTING watchdogs have ruled that a Government anti-smoking commercial featuring John Cleese contains too much violence and black humour to be shown on children's television.

The ruling, published today by the Independent Television Commission, follows complaints from three viewers about an advertisement in which Cleese appears to shoot dead the occupant of an armchair. The scene is shown from behind the chair and only later is it revealed that the "victim" is not human but a packet of cigarettes.

The commission rejected a claim by the Broadcast Advertising Clearance Centre, which vets all television advertisements, that the small number of complaints did not warrant intervention. Instead it ruled that the initial impression of violence was significant and would be seen by many parents as inappropriate for showing around times of children's programmes.

The commission's ruling highlights the sensitivity of

anti-smoking campaigns. ASH, the leading anti-smoking group, has attacked the ruling. Karen Williams, a spokeswoman, said: "These adverts are aimed at the family, using humour to promote an anti-smoking message. We know it's children who start to smoke, rather than adults, so it's particularly important that these ads get through to them."

"They use humour, albeit black humour, but they are dealing with a topic which kills 111,000 people a year in this country, so it's going to be black humour," she said.

Cleese, an ardent anti-smoker, became involved with the campaign when it was launched by the Health Education Authority two years ago. The "armchair shooting" episode was part of a series in which Cleese combined bluntness with humour to illustrate the problems experienced by smokers who want to give up.

Previous episodes have contained over references to death and have been restricted to transmission when there is unlikely to be a young audi-

ence. Although the campaign has been a critical success, the Government is disappointed by how few young people have given up smoking. The Health Education Authority has now put its anti-smoking advertising account, handled for the past 13 years by the agency Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, up for review.

In a separate ruling, the commission issued special guidance on the use of distasteful imagery in commercials after 196 complaints about an advert for the Sun Alliance insurance company. It contained a number of juxtaposed images which the commission accepted could be emotionally disturbing. In one scene, a picture of boiling water cut to a baptism, giving the fleeting impression that a baby was about to be scalded.

In another a child holding a toy gun against a woman switches to the sound of a motorcycle backfiring. Although the commission did not uphold the complaints, it advised advertisers to pay more attention to the content in which images are shown.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sandwich labels mislead buyers

A survey by trading officers of sandwiches sold in eight West Country counties found that half had misleading labels. They included pork shoulder being described as ham and reconstituted meat mixed with cereal labelled as beef.

Other labels did not indicate when ingredients included extra water or when protein, milk or vegetable protein had been added to meats. There were incorrect labels on 114 sandwiches out of 221 (51.6 per cent). The British Sandwich Association has been asked to raise standards.

Hoover plea fails

A judge in St Helens, Merseyside, has rejected an application by Hoover to strike out 127 claims by customers dissatisfied over the company's free-flights offer. The customers, who failed either to receive tickets or the flights they wanted, are claiming damages for disappointment and loss of enjoyment.

Murder remand

Anthony Roach, 24, was remanded in custody by Tottenham magistrates, charged with the murder of Louise Crowe, a New Zealander living in Wood Green, north London, and the attempted murder of Carmen Morris.

Diving death

Nigel Kenny, 25, died and Gary Williams, also 25, was taken to hospital after a diving accident in a flooded quarry near Coniston, Cumbria. Emergency services were called after the men got into difficulties.

Briton in court

John Scripps, a Briton charged with killing and dismembering a South African tourist, is scheduled to appear in court in Singapore today. Scripps, from Leichworth, Hertfordshire, faces 13 charges.

Chapel goes west

Methodists attended the final service at a village chapel before it is shipped stone-by-stone to the United States. The 130-year-old chapel in Sproston, Leicestershire, has been bought by Baker University in Kansas.

Sound barrier

Residents of Cowes, Isle of Wight, were kept awake for an hour when the foghorn of a lightship being refitted was triggered at 3am and sounded a four-second blast every minute. Workers forgot to switch off after testing.

Politically correct policies blamed as Hackney sets up fraud inquiry

By IAN MURRAY

A LONDON Labour council is to carry out an urgent internal inquiry into allegations that "fraud involving hundreds of employees was allowed to flourish as a result of 'politically correct' employment policies. The inquiry, set up by Hackney council, is to be conducted by a senior Queen's Counsel and will begin next week.

It will investigate claims that policies to increase the number of staff from ethnic minorities meant that no disciplinary action was taken against officers suspected of milking hundreds of thousands of pounds in rents, benefits and grants from the council.

In neighbouring Islington, an independent report last week found that paedophiles and pimps were able to exploit politically correct policies to gain access to children in council homes.

The Hackney inquiry, however, will not be independent, and Conservatives and Lib-

eral Democrats on the Labour-dominated council have said they will not take part. "This will be a Labour members' inquiry, run by the Labour group which has been in charge of this council forever," Colin Beadle, former leader of the Liberal Democrat group, claimed. "I find it impossible to believe they will come up with anything remotely critical of the Labour group."

Mr Beadle lost his seat in last year's council elections and claims he was the focus of attack in the campaign because he had exposed fraud and mismanagement in Hackney's housing stock. "People know what is happening but are afraid to tackle it head-on for fear of being called racists," he said.

"It is not only politically correct, but politically corrupt, and it's costing Hackney £1 million a year. That means all council tenants have to pay an extra £2 a week in rent to make the books balance."

"When they employ people,



Crofton: denies racism

they don't look for professional qualifications. The good people get demoralised and leave and the council is left with the rubbish."

Last month Hackney sacked its experienced housing director, Bernard Crofton, after finding him guilty of racism. During his four years on the staff he was widely praised for cracking down on corruption but he was suspended last

November and then dismissed after accusing Sam Yehosh, the assistant chief executive, of failing to investigate fraud among the housing staff.

Mr Crofton is appealing against the dismissal but that can only be done before another committee of Hackney council. In tonight's edition of the BBC2 series *Taking Liberties*, he claims that after he found fraud and corruption involving 10 per cent of Hackney's housing stock, he was accused of racism.

"They didn't just want to destroy my job but damage my reputation," he said. "At Hackney, racism is bandied about like political confetti." Hackney council declined to comment on the allegations because Mr Crofton's appeal is pending.

Joe Lobenstein, leader of the Conservative group, said: "Mr Crofton tried to sort it out and got the boot for it. He is certainly not a racist. This is the culture of Hackney. If you disagree with someone, you are automatically called a racist."

Man held over photos of naked stewardesses

A MAN believed to be a steward on the Australian airline Qantas has been arrested in Queensland after allegations that stewardesses were drugged in a London Hotel before having photographs taken of them naked.

Five Qantas stewardesses told detectives they became unconscious after drinking drug-laced coffee, cocoa or wine in the Forum Hotel,

Kensington, and when they woke they had been undressed. Photographs of the women were seized by detectives in Australia and copies given to British police. They are preparing a file for the Crown Prosecution Service to see if there is a case against the man in this country.

Qantas staff have been using the four-star £135-a-night hotel since 1990.

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Rescue teams lose hope in rubble of Russian quake

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MORE than 2,000 people buried alive by an earthquake in the Russian Far East were feared dead yesterday after rescue workers said there was little hope of finding survivors.

Major Vladimir Deyev, a spokesman for the civil defence on the Pacific island of Sakhalin, where the town of Neftegorsk was destroyed at the weekend, said that rescue teams were finding only bodies. "It is most likely they have all died," he said. "There is practically no hope that they are alive. The rescuers are only dragging out the dead."

The first journalists to reach the town said that wisps of smoke were spiralling up from where rescuers cut through sheets of twisted metal. In many places mangled bodies protruded from the ruins, which echoed to the shouts of residents calling the names of those buried.

Yefim Basin, the Construction Minister, said that

Neftegorsk would not be rebuilt; survivors would be evacuated to settlements in South Sakhalin. Eduard Nechayev, the Health Minister, said that the destruction was even greater than that caused by the Armenian earthquake in December 1988.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, said: "Everything has to be transported by air because roads and bridges have been destroyed." The railway will take at least 12 days to repair.

The immensity of the death toll in relation to the town's population, 3,200, is believed to be in large part due to the poor quality of the housing, the freezing weather and the difficulty of access. Rescue workers said that only 600 people were accounted for, half of them dead, and they had resorted to a morbid mathematical equation to estimate the final death toll. "If we

take about 20 buildings in ruins, each with 60 flats and each with a family of three, that means we have more than 3,000 people," Sergei Khetagurov, the Deputy Emergency Minister, said.

Valeri Kulbakov, a reporter on the Sakhalin *Pravda* newspaper, who visited the destroyed town, said that most victims were buried under their homes, cheaply made five-storey buildings built in the mass housing campaign ordered by Nikita Khrushchev in the 1960s. The housing was completed before regional authorities took into consideration the danger of earthquakes and required that all buildings built after 1972 be able to withstand tremors.

□ Paphos: An earthquake of at least 5.0 on the Richter scale caused people to run in panic into the streets of this Cypriot coastal resort town yesterday, but damage was slight. (Reuters)



A resident of Dunster House, a Harvard dormitory, watches as investigators arrive after a student murdered her roommate, injured another woman, and hanged herself

Exam stress may have triggered Harvard murder

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AN OUTSTANDING Harvard University student who went on a murderous rampage in her college dormitory at the weekend may have spent several days planning the early-morning attack in which she stabbed her roommate to death and injured another woman before hanging herself in a bathroom.

Sineadu Tadesse, 20, a medical student from Ethiopia, reportedly sent a photograph of herself to *The Crimson*, Harvard's campus newspaper, last week, with a typed note warning: "Keep this picture. There will soon be a very juicy story involving the person in this picture."

Early on Sunday, the day after final exams ended, Miss Tadesse repeatedly stabbed her sleeping roommate, Trang Ho, 20, with a ten-inch knife, police said.

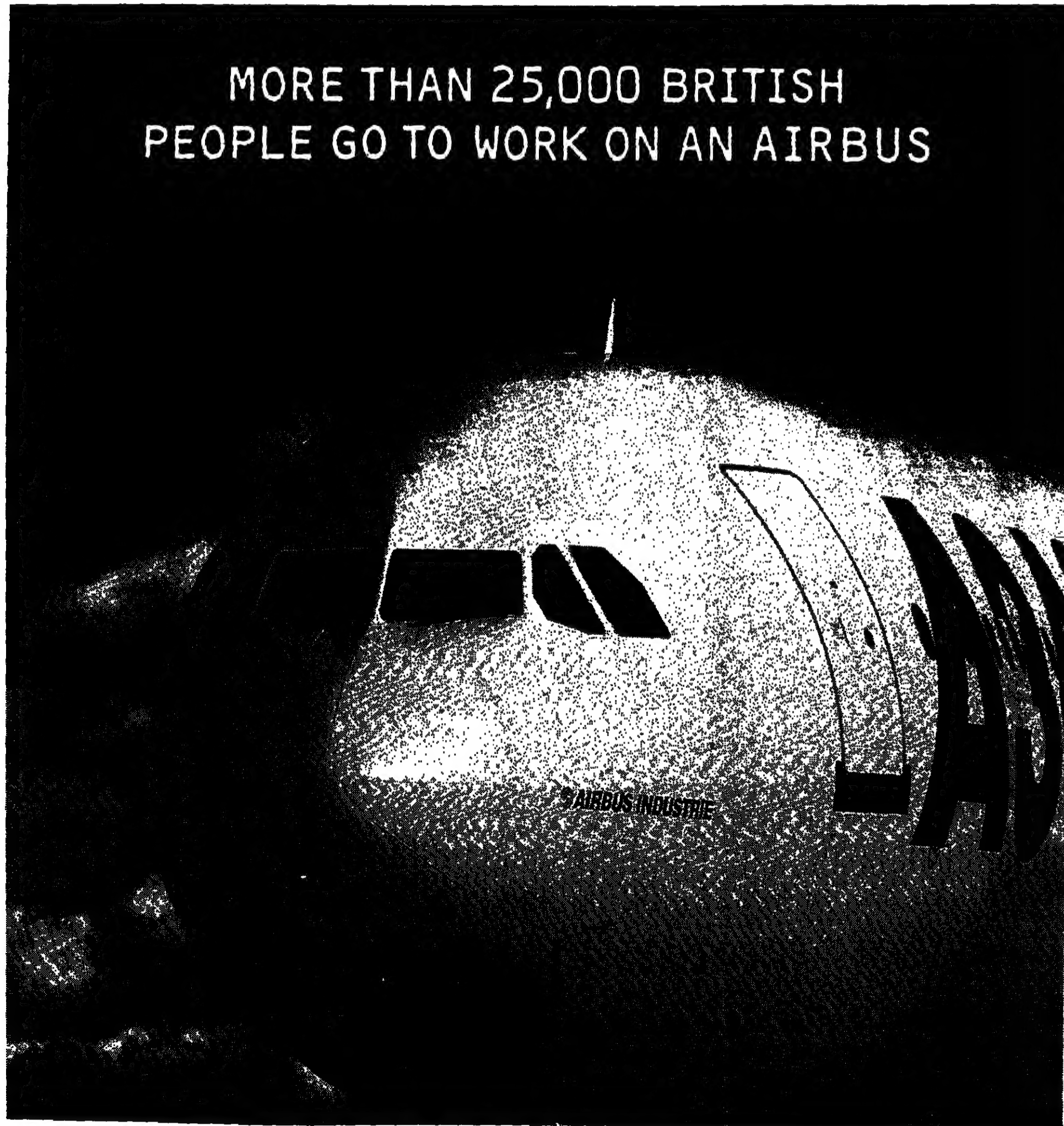
A friend staying with Miss Ho, Thao Nguyen, was attacked when she tried to intervene. Miss Tadesse barricaded herself into a bathroom, then hanged herself from the shower rail. Miss

Tadesse, from Addis Ababa, and Miss Ho, a Vietnamese immigrant from Massachusetts, had shared rooms for the past two years, but had fallen out and decided not to share again. Miss Tadesse was believed to be deeply upset by her friend's decision to move out. The combination of loneliness, examination stress and the tense relationship between the two women may have led to the attack, police said.



Tadesse had fallen out with dead girl

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Saddam's troops 'kill 30 Iraqis in riots'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN AMMAN

IRAQI security forces crushed riots in a province west of Baghdad two weeks ago, killing about 30 people and wounding hundreds, travellers said yesterday, quoting local residents.

The violence broke out on May 17 in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, after the authorities handed over the body of an air force general, Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaimi, who was implicated last year in a coup attempt. Arab diplomats said.

Members of the powerful Sunni Dulaimi clan, which is usually loyal to President Saddam Hussein, set fire to public buildings after seeing the body which was mutilated from torture, the envoys said.

President Saddam sent troops backed by tanks and helicopters to crush the violence, the diplomats said. They added that Wathban Ibrahim al-Hassan, the Interior Minister—a member of the Takriti clan and a half-brother of Saddam—travelled to the region with the troops and rejected talks with tribal leaders, whom he insulted before cracking down on the population.

The travellers said 30 people, most of them members of the Dulaimi clan, were killed and several hundred people were wounded in several days of violence. One traveller said that about a dozen Iraqi officials had suffered burns when rioters set fire to public buildings.

The diplomats added that Saddam had dismissed Mr Hassan on May 22 in an attempt to appease the Dulaimi tribe.

Spanish Right sets sights on bigger prize

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

AFTER the most dramatic change to Spain's political map since the Socialists swept to power in 1982, the right-wing Popular Party yesterday looked on course to win the next general election, having humiliated the Socialists of Felipe González, the Prime Minister, in municipal and regional elections.

The final picture will not be clear until pacts and coalitions, especially with the communist United Left party, have been forged.

The triumphant Popular Party (PP) leader, José María Aznar, 42, did not achieve the sweeping majority predicted, since nearly a third of the electorate are still Socialist supporters. He gained an absolute majority in 35 of Spain's 52 provincial capitals, a simple majority in another 12, and an outright win in five of the 13 regional parliaments. The PP has two years until the next general election to show that his policies work and that it is not, as the Socialists claim, Francoist and neo-Fascist.

"We have obtained a clear and ample victory. We have mounted the penultimate step. The next will be the government of Spain," Señor Aznar told a huge crowd of chanting supporters.

In the fifth municipal elections since democracy was restored after Franco's death nearly 20 years ago, the PP obtained 35.26 per cent of the vote, the Socialists 30.81 per cent and the United Left 11.68. The Socialists have dropped ten percentage points and the PP has gained seven since local polls in 1991.

Woman accused of grandson's murder

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN SAINT-ETIENNE

AN ALGERIAN grandmother went on trial in this French town yesterday accused of murdering her four-week-old grandson because he was the "child of sin".

Fatma Sadelli, 64, allegedly hit the child over the head because he was fathered by a non-Muslim Frenchman. The baby disappeared when Mrs Sadelli's daughter, Fatima Fayard, and her husband,

Guillaume, visited the family farm at Saint-Genest-Lerpt.

Police found the body in a plastic bag on April 20, 1993, hidden in a recess in a stable. A post-mortem examination showed that the child had died after several blows to the head. Mrs Sadelli, who allegedly detested the baby and called it the "child of sin", has been in custody awaiting trial for 25 months.

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Art collection of a legal legend likely to fetch £1m

BY JOHN SHAW
SIXTEEN paintings belonging to a solicitor "who knew enough to hang half the dukes and duchesses in the kingdom" are expected to make £1 million at Sotheby's in London next week.
Sir George Lewis (1833-1911) was a legal legend in his day and confidant to some of the most eminent of late Victorians. He extracted the Prince of Wales from the embarrassing Tanby-Croft affair and was legal adviser to Charles Stewart Parnell.
Lewis exposed as forgeries a series of letters apparently condoning the Phoenix Park Murders. They were published in *The Times* in 1887 under the heading Parnellism and Crime. A knight-hood followed Lewis's role on the Parnell Commission.
Lewis also advised Whistler on his bankruptcy after the celebrated Ruskin label case. Ruskin had denounced Whistler's painting *Nocturne in Black and Gold: The Great River*, accusing him of "flinging a pot of paint in the public's face" and Whistler sued him for libel. Whistler won the action but was awarded only a farthing in damages, without costs - in



Burne-Jones's portrait of Katie Lewis is estimated at £500,000-£700,000. The artist presented the picture to her father and said: "He didn't know how to thank me"

effect a justification for Ruskin.
In 1873 Lewis helped Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, the Dutch artist who settled in London in 1870, to become a British citizen. He also advised John Singer Sargent, Oscar Wilde, yet another client, said of Lewis: "He knows everything about us all and forgives us all."
Lewis warned off a journalist attempting to persecute Wilde and then dealt with threats Lord Alfred Douglas faced from blackmailers.
The paintings were hung at the solicitor's home in Portland Place, the focus of a series of glittering parties and soirées over many years, attended by guests both aristocratic and Bohemian.
His wife, Elizabeth, was interested in art in all its forms. Sir Edward Burne-Jones, who avoided an elaborate social life, became a frequent guest in London and at their country house at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. Burne-Jones apprenticed himself to Rossetti in 1856 and was greatly influenced by him. He favoured mythical subjects and hated modernists like the Impressionists, describing their subjects as "landscapes and whores".
His portrait of Katie, the youngest Lewis daughter, will be the highlight of the sale, estimated at £500,000-£700,000. Burne-Jones had a rapport with his model and wrote her a charming series of illustrated letters that are now in the British Museum.
The picture took four years to complete and was eventually presented to her parents. In 1897 Burne-Jones said: "Sir G. Lewis was very pleased with his daughter's portrait that I sent him the other day. Vowed it was exactly like her now. 'tho it isn't, for she is a young lady of 22 and when it was done she was only a child of eight."
He didn't know what to do to thank me. All he could do was to make me take away as many boxes of cigars as he could lay his hands on. He fidgeted about the room to find something that I would like and couldn't satisfy himself at all.
"Rather pathetic, wasn't it, to see a man in that state who is the terror of the aristocracy of England and knows enough to hang half the dukes and duchesses in the kingdom."
Katie, a strong and lively personality, lived in Portland Place until her mother died in 1931. She then moved to Broadway, Hereford and Worcester, and died there aged 82 in 1961.
The collection is being sold by relatives. The pictures, mainly by Burne-Jones with examples by Alma-Tadema and George Henry Boughton are on the market for the first time, an echo of the Victorian age at its most artistically expansive. The sale is on June 7.

Sandwich labels mislead buyers

A survey by trading standards of sandwiches sold in the West Country counties that half had misleading labels. They included a shoulder being described as ham and reconstructed a mixed with cereal labels beef.

Other labels did not state when ingredients had extra water or protein. Milk or vegetable protein had been added. There were also labels on 114 sandwiches of 221 (18.6 per cent) British Sandwich Association has been asked to set standards.

Hoover plea fails

A judge in the Helens, Weymouth, has rejected an application by Hoover to strike 127 claims by customers satisfied over the company's free-lighter offer. The company's offer of a lighter to receive a lighter or the lighter damaged or lost, and the company's offer.

Murder remand

A man charged with the murder of a woman in 1984 was remanded in custody by the court. The man, who was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984, was remanded in custody by the court.

Woman's death

A woman, 25, died in a car crash on the A10 in Weymouth. The woman, who was 25, died in a car crash on the A10 in Weymouth.

Man in court

A man, 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984. The man, who was 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984.

Man goes west

A man, 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984. The man, who was 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984.

Blamed

A man, 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984. The man, who was 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984.

Inquiry

A man, 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984. The man, who was 30, was charged with the murder of a woman in 1984.



A watercolour by Sita Ram of Lord Hastings's European servants travelling by elephant

Raj 'snapshot' albums yield rare paintings

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 200 rare Indian paintings from the heyday of the British Raj have been acquired by the British Library after their discovery among private papers.
The paintings were amassed in 23 albums by the first Marquess and Marchioness of Hastings when he was governor-general of Bengal from 1813 to 1823, a post that made him in effect the ruler of British India. The couple collected paintings as if they were albums of photographs. Almost half of the albums contain 228 large watercolours illustrating their travels from Calcutta to Delhi and back in 1814-15. They were souvenirs to be savoured later by their children, who were at that time too young to appreciate them.
The collection has only recently been found among the marquess's papers. Although it was known that he had patronised British artists, his extensive patronage of Indian artists had not been realised.
The library described the Indian paintings as "one of the most magnificent series ever found" and of "outstanding aesthetic quality". Their principal importance lies in the work of the little-known Indian artist Sita Ram, whose delicate and detailed style combines Eastern and Western traditions.
The illustrations include three volumes of natural history, which seems to have been Lady Hastings's particular interest. There are drawings that she must have commissioned of birds and animals in her menagerie at Barrackpore, the governor-general's country retreat outside Calcutta. The menagerie included ostriches, llamas and a kangaroo. Another album has studies of Indian and South-East Asian fruit, others have portraits of contemporary rulers by other Indian artists.
The albums have been added to the library's collection of images on the cultural and political interchange between the Indians and the British during the Raj.
The marquess (1754-1826) went to India after distinguished military and political careers and his vigorous expansionist policy extended the frontiers of British India. He kept a journal which complements the images in the albums. His younger daughter, Sophia, edited and published the journal in 1858.
The collection also features Chinese works, watercolours from Canton produced for the Western market, and British paintings, including some by Sir Charles D'Oyly, a leading amateur artist of the day.
The purchase, negotiated privately by Christie's, was made possible with a £25,000 grant from the National Art Collections Fund, Britain's leading art charity, which last year gave a record £2.55 million to artistic causes. David Barrie, its director, said: "Our grant of £25,000 shows yet again that the Fund is keen to support work by non-European artists."



Hastings extended Raj

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ess may gered murder

RE IN NEW YORK

adese, from Addis Ababa and Miss Ho, a Vietnamese immigrant from Massachusetts, had shared rooms for the past two years, but he alienated and decided to share again. Miss Ho was believed to be depressed by her friend's decision to move out. The combination of loneliness, emotional stress and the relationship between the two women may have led to the attack, police said.



Tadesse had fallen out with dead girl

Spanish Right sets sights on bigger prize

FROM LONDON

AFTER the most dramatic change to Spain's political map since the 1982 election, the right-wing Popular Party today looks on course to win the next general election, having defeated the Socialist Party in the regional elections in Madrid.

The final picture will be clear only after a coalition of the right-wing parties has been formed. The final picture will be clear only after a coalition of the right-wing parties has been formed.

The triumph of the Popular Party (PP) under José María Aznar, 42, did not end the sweeping majority in the elections. Since nearly a third of the electorate are still Socialist supporters, the Socialist Party will remain in power.

accused of n's murder

FROM LONDON

The sudden rise in the political temperature has been caused by a flurry of reports that Israeli and Syrian are preparing to secure a peace deal before next year's Israeli election, at which all opinion polls predict that Likud, a party opposed to a complete Golan withdrawal, would be returned to power.

Maria Van Meir, the spokeswoman for the Golan Residents' Committee, said the rally was being held to unveil secret plans to step up the campaign for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The rally will be at the El Rom kibbutz, one of a number of settlements under threat of dismantlement. The Golan settlers, 71 per cent of whom voted for the ruling Labour Party at the last election, said they would not respect "any government decision regarding withdrawal unless a referendum is held".

The settlers claim majority support among the public and backing from a key group of hawkish Labour deputies led by Avigdor Kahalani, a war hero who has proposed that Israel leave the Golan from Syria for 50 years and keep Israeli settlements in place.

Crippled victim of Tiananmen protest held by Chinese

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

A DISSIDENT and champion athlete, who lost both legs six years ago under a tank during the Tiananmen Square uprising, has been arrested on Hainan island, China's most southerly province.

According to fellow dissidents, police detained Fang Zheng for five hours in Haikou, Hainan's capital. Also detained was another activist, Zheng Xuguang, who was jailed twice after the Tiananmen protest, his wife, and Mr Fang's friend, Fang Meng.

Fang Zheng came to public notice last September at the Sixth Far Eastern and South Pacific Disabled Games where, as China's disabled discus champion, as well as a medal winner in the shot and javelin, he was viewed as a top athlete. In 1989, when he was a student at Peking Sports University, Mr Fang attempted to pull a friend out of the path of a tank during the army's crackdown, and lost both legs.

Last year, the son of Deng Xiaoping, the senior Chinese leader, Pufang, who is chair-



Fang lost legs trying to save demonstrator

man of the Chinese Disabled Federation and himself a paraplegic after a failed suicide attempt during the Cultural Revolution, told journalists that Mr Fang would be able to compete in the Disabled Games as long as he gave no political interviews. But within a few days, Mr Fang was told the discus event had been cancelled and was thrown back to Hainan. But it was held and the gold medal went to a competitor whose throw was far shorter than Mr

Fang's record. The arrest of dissidents has spread from Peking to other main cities, including Xian, Nanking, Hangzhou, and Chongqing, where there were Tiananmen Square-style demonstrations in 1989.

In its latest report, Amnesty International says that "six years after the suppression of the 1989 pro-democracy protests... serious human rights violations continue across the country. The last year was marked by increased political repression and the adoption of new repressive legislation."

Dissident intellectuals are becoming bolder than at any time since 1989, and earlier this month petitioned the Government to practise political tolerance "a spirit with which our country is relatively unfamiliar". Their letter was signed by 45 intellectuals, including one of the creators of China's nuclear weapons.

Police have arrested up to 41 activists in the past month. Twenty-four are still held and are likely to remain in custody until after next Sunday's sixth anniversary of the uprising.



Wedding lifts Japan's gloom

Keiko Kono, a petite television personality, smiles as she emerges from her wedding to Yokozuna Takano-hana, Japan's 22-stone sumo grand champion. The couple, wearing designer ver-

sions of traditional wedding kimonos, were married yesterday at the central Tokyo shrine where Takano-hana,

22, performed ancient rites in January to formalise his elevation to sumo's highest rank. The wedding, which

was shown live on television, allowed Japan to concentrate on something other than the woes of a dismal year. "This is a refreshing break," said a Japanese photographer covering the wedding. (Reuters)

Tyranny claims rejected

Britain has dismissed as "absurd" claims by Islamic dissidents in this country that the Government of Bahrain is tyrannical, again underlining Whitehall's annoyance at the presence in London of radical Arab activists (Michael Binyon writes).

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, told the BBC Arabic Service that he disagreed with criticisms made by Sheikh Ali Salman and other Bahrainis.

Mexico upset

Guatemala: Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party suffered its worst defeat in 66 years in power. An opposition candidate for the Guatemalan state governorship won by a 2-1 margin. (Reuters)

Minsk impasse

Minsk: Voters in Belorussia have returned an unworkable parliament in the country's first post-Soviet general election. Elections in half the districts were invalid because of low voter turnout. (Reuters)

Tibet torture

Peking: Political and religious repression in Tibet reached new heights in 1993 and 1994, with the arrest of nearly 300 people, some aged only 12, and widespread torture. Amnesty International said. (AFP)

German contest

Bonn: Jürgen Möllemann, the tireless gadfly of German liberal politics, said he would challenge Wolfgang Gerhardt, the front-running candidate for the Free Democratic Party leadership. (Reuters)

Mandela thanks

Dar es Salaam: President Mandela of South Africa began a visit to Tanzania to upgrade relations and to thank the country for supporting the armed struggle against apartheid. (Reuters)

Malaria toll

Dhaka: Bangladesh has deployed hundreds of medical teams to contain outbreaks of malaria and diarrhoea that have killed at least 1,100 people in less than two months, officials said. (Reuters)

Settlers step up pressure over Golan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE struggle inside Israel over the future of the occupied Golan Heights intensified yesterday with the announcement of a rally of Jewish settlers on the strategic plateau next week.

In another sign of heightened tension, Michael Ben-Yair, the Attorney-General, was urged to investigate Uri Landau, a leading deputy in the right-wing opposition Likud. He is accused of violating the laws against incitement and rebellion by encouraging soldiers to disobey orders to dismantle any of the 32 Golan settlements.

The demand followed an Israeli radio broadcast in which Mr Landau said: "If I were a soldier who got an order to dismantle even one settlement today - before the people have been asked, before there are elections - I would not obey that order."

The sudden rise in the political temperature has been caused by a flurry of reports that Israeli and Syrian are preparing to secure a peace deal before

next year's Israeli election, at which all opinion polls predict that Likud, a party opposed to a complete Golan withdrawal, would be returned to power.

Maria Van Meir, the spokeswoman for the Golan Residents' Committee, said the rally was being held to unveil secret plans to step up the campaign for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights. The rally will be at the El Rom kibbutz, one of a number of settlements under threat of dismantlement. The Golan settlers, 71 per cent of whom voted for the ruling Labour Party at the last election, said they would not respect "any government decision regarding withdrawal unless a referendum is held".

The settlers claim majority support among the public and backing from a key group of hawkish Labour deputies led by Avigdor Kahalani, a war hero who has proposed that Israel leave the Golan from Syria for 50 years and keep Israeli settlements in place.

The official Syrian media, commenting

in advance of next month's diplomatic mission by Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, insisted that Damascus would not accept anything less than a total Israeli withdrawal as the price for a peace treaty.

Syrian hopes have been boosted by recent remarks by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, who said that the Golan is Syrian land and that Damascus cannot expect anything less than Egypt. Cairo secured the phased Israeli evacuation of the whole of the occupied Sinai in exchange for the peace signed in 1979 between President Sadat and the then Likud Government.

In Amman, the Jordanian Government banned a demonstration by opponents of the peace treaty with Israel. The Government had approved the protest last week after banning it earlier. The demonstration had been organised by 11 left-wing and Muslim fundamentalist groups opposed to the normalisation of relations with Israel.



Bombay: A right-wing Hindu leader whose party rules Maharashtra, the most industrialised Indian state, has dismissed P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, above, as ineffectual and said he should be replaced by a Hitler-like figure. Bal Thackeray, leader of the Shiv Sena Party, described Mr Rao as inactive and said: "This country needs a Hitler." (AFP)

France is accused of arming Hutu militias

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

FRANCE has armed and trained Hutu extremists who committed last year's genocide in Rwanda and plan to restart the civil war using weapons supplied by China, South Africa, Libya, and Zaire, according to a human rights group in Washington.

The Human Rights Arms Project yesterday accused France, in particular, of supplying military hardware to the then Rwandan Armed Forces, rescuing some of those responsible for organising the genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates and violating a United Nations arms embargo. Most of the weapons shipments for the Hutu militia and army, came through Goma, Zaire. The

report, *Rearming with Impunity*, says that many weapons were flown in while French troops controlled Goma airport during Operation Turquoise.

"The French consul in Goma at the time, Jean-Claude Urbain, has justified the shipments as a fulfilment of contracts negotiated with the Government of Rwanda prior to the arms embargo," the report says.

The human rights group also alleges that during the establishment of the "safe zone" by French troops in southwest Rwanda last June and July, weapons were collected and then handed back to the militias when the soldiers left.

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Troops leave to reinforce Bosnia peacekeepers

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT, AND JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

THE first batch of British troops and artillery being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina to provide extra firepower and protection to the 3,400 soldiers serving with the United Nations will leave today.

The Ministry of Defence yesterday scrambled to get a reinforcement package together after the decision by John Major and senior Cabinet ministers to send another 6,700 troops.

The haste with which the advance party of troops and 105mm light guns are being deployed indicates the sense of urgency after the seizure of 33 hostages from the Royal Welch Fusiliers at Gorazde by the Bosnian Serbs.

The largest element of the reinforcement package will be the 5,500-man 24 Airborne Brigade, based at Colchester. Although this new rapid-reaction flexible force has been put on standby, Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, made it clear yesterday that the brigade would go. "This is not a contingency but an expectation to deploy," he said.

One reason for holding back the departure date is that there need to be sensitive negotiations with the Croatian Government to facilitate their arrival at Split.

There also remain tricky decisions over the precise role and standing of the new force. The MoD is reluctant to paint all the reinforcing vehicles white so that they become part of the UN's assets in Bosnia, because the new deployments are being sent to protect the British troops "in theatre".

Military sources said some compromise would have to be reached, whereby the new vehicles could be classed as UN without having to be

repainted. Britain wants to retain some tactical advantage by keeping the vehicles in camouflage colours.

The request for an airborne brigade came from Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, who wants to set up a large mobile reserve force that can be switched from one hotspot to another. The British reinforcements, as well as British soldiers in central Bosnia and not involved in daily confrontations with the Serbs, will make up the bulk of the reserve force.

The instant reaction to the seizure of hostages and the dire warnings to the Serbs of serious consequences if the British soldiers come to any harm herald a new tough approach towards the Serb warlords.

Mr Rifkind said that the reinforcements were being sent not only to enhance the protection of the British soldiers but to send "a clear and unmistakable message" to the Serbs of the importance that the Government attaches to the safety of the men.

He said that the United Kingdom had a long record of providing proper protection for British forces, which was what "the public expects, and that's what we will provide". The 6,700 men will be assigned to the UN and will be available to General Smith as its commander. However, their principal role will be to protect British interests.

The first unit to go will be 19 Field Regiment based at Colchester. The 165 troops from the regiment, equipped with one battery of six 105mm light guns, are expected to leave from Lyneham, Wiltshire, this morning. Also to go will be a tactical headquarters from 19 Field Regiment.

In the second phase, another 105mm gun battery from 19 Field Regiment will be dispatched with about 300 men. They will be joined by two Lynx helicopters, armed with anti-tank missiles.

As part of the second phase, 350 troops from 21 Engineer Regiment based in Neuberg, Germany, will deploy to Bosnia. They will be equipped with three Assault Vehicle Royal Engineers (AVREs), which are used for the destruction of fortified positions, bunkers and obstacles, as well as clearing minefields.

The engineer squadron will also have three Chieftain bridge-layers that can construct a bridge in five minutes. Elements of 21 Engineer Regiment are already serving in Bosnia.

The 24 Airborne Brigade assets include two mobile infantry battalions, the 1st Royal Anglian and the 1st Light Infantry, each with 700 soldiers, based at Colchester. There are also two aviation regiments, numbers 3 and 4 Regiments Army Air Corps, each equipped with Lynx and Gazelle helicopters. These regiments are from Wanshan, Suffolk.

The big helicopters for transporting troops will consist of up to 19 Chinooks and 18 Pumas from Odiham, Hampshire, the RAF helicopter support base. The brigade will also be equipped with more 105mm light guns from 19 Field Regiment.

The sources also said that the reinforcements could be used in a number of different roles which could include rescuing the hostages.

Twenty-five of the hostages have been taken to the east Bosnian town of Visegrad, near the Serbian border. They were driven in their four Saxon armoured personnel carriers, which the Serbs now control.

The whereabouts of the other eight is not clear, although there are reports they are being held in a house near the observation post where they were seized. At first the British troops were allowed to communicate with British Army HQ, but according to some reports this has stopped. However, they have been allowed to keep their sidearms.

Lawrence Freedman, page 16
Letters, page 17

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Pauline Jones and her son, Lee, who is one of the fusiliers held by the Bosnian Serbs. "I would rather have him back here on the dole than out there," she said. Bosnia "was his first posting - his first real job"

Hostage's worried mother tells of his liking for Serb villagers

By KATE ALDERSON AND LIN JENKINS

THE worried families of the 33 Royal Welch Fusiliers being held hostage in Bosnia spoke yesterday of their fears.

As prayers were said in churches throughout Wales for those in the country's oldest regiment, the mother of Private Lee Jones, 19, spent anxious hours waiting for news. Pauline Jones, 51, from Brynbo, Wrexham, said her son had spoken fondly of the Serb people he had met on his first tour of duty in Bosnia.

"He told me he and his friends had bought a little puppy from the Serbs in exchange for 4lb of pudding," said Mrs Jones, whose sitting room is adorned with photographs of her son. "He loves army life, the camaraderie and the friendship," she said. "He always wanted to travel to see the world and thought the army would give him that opportunity. In his letters and phone calls he was always in high spirits and he told me not to worry - that he would be all right."

Private Jones, an army driver, had a succession of jobs after he left school at 16, including a bread van round, but could not find regular work. "My first thought when I heard the news was that I would rather have him back here on the dole than out there," Mrs Jones said. Her son, whose passions are cars

and fishing, would be able to keep his head in a crisis, she said. "He has never had to face anything like this before: it was his first posting - his first real job. As long as he is with a friend or colleague and not alone, then I think he'll be able to cope with whatever is thrown at him."

Private Mark Wainwright, 21, proposed to his girlfriend, Rachel, a few weeks before he was sent to Bosnia, according to his grandmother, Betty. His parents, Derek, 44, and Kay, 42, from Presteigne, near Wrexham, were celebrating their 24th wedding anniversary in Llanza-

note, are returning home. "The whole thing is stomach-churning and we need the family to be together," said Betty Wainwright, 70, who lives almost next door to the regiment's Hightown barracks. "Mark is everybody's favourite, a real personality," she added. "He was a jolly lad, happy-go-lucky and he loved his football."

Private Wainwright, who joined the Army two years ago to save himself from the lengthy North Wales dole queue, was on his first tour of duty in Bosnia. After being graded one of the best cadets of his intake, he went on a

short visit to Canada, his only previous foreign posting. "We loved his letters," his grandmother said. "They were full of so much fun. In his last letter to me, he said he could murder my poached egg on toast, and asked us to send parcels to give to the children."

Rachel Hearn, 23, Private Wainwright's fiancée, said: "He has a brilliant strong personality and is very level-headed. I am sure that he will be coping with the situation better than I am."

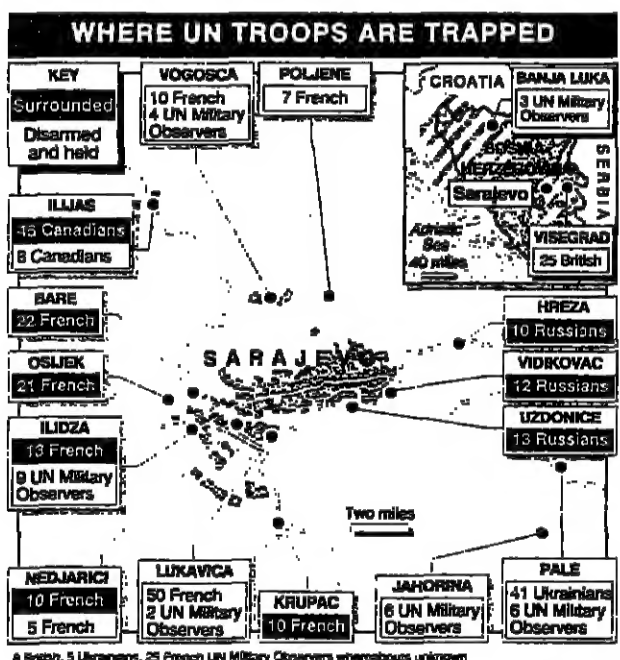
Patricia Scoble, mother of Lance-Corporal Glyn Scoble, 26, said: "To the outside world he is a soldier, but to me he is my boy. I keep on bursting into tears because I cannot get it out of my mind. My son is the bravest man I know, but who knows what hell he is going through?" she said from her home in Llanedeyrn, Cardiff.

Many of the hostages have young families living either on the Dale estate in Haverfordwest or back at home with their parents and in-laws in North Wales, where most were recruited. On Thursday the Queen, Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment and the Duke of Edinburgh are to keep a long-standing promise to visit the troops' families.

Waiting wives, page 1



Anxious relatives seek information about their loved ones at The Royal Welch Fusiliers barracks



Marines sent to Adriatic will avoid combat role

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has sent a quick-reaction force of 2,000 Marines trained for hostage rescues and other commando raids to the Adriatic. President Clinton's National Security Adviser said yesterday, however, that they were a precaution and not a step towards a combat role.

"There have been no decisions taken to send our troops into Bosnia and no decision has been made to send them into combat," Anthony Lake, the adviser, said.

That begged the question of why the US Marines, plus two helicopter carriers and a landing ship, had broken off a training exercise near Sardinia to move closer to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr Lake said it had been "purely a precautionary measure".

The mixed signals emanating from Washington, so characteristic of the Clinton Administration, may reflect a growing concern of the President to limit political damage at home over Bosnia. Questions are starting to be asked over why he and his advisers were so determined to put pressure on Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, to request the Nato air raids that have become a military and diplomatic debacle.

Bill Bradley, a Democratic senator, voiced a growing assessment that the raids had not been properly thought through. "We have used force without a policy," he said.

There is a sense in Washington that the United States has been humbled by Bosnia. Nato is seen as a limp instrument without American leadership. Still, there has been no

outcry from American voters for their troops to get involved. The comments by Mr Lake and other officials were designed to emphasise that Mr Clinton has not changed his decision against sending American troops into Bosnia. At the same time, the United States is prepared to offer logistical and equipment support to help strengthen the UN force, as proposed by the French.

Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, and William Perry, the Secretary of Defence, met at the White House on Sunday to discuss the possible use of the Ma-

rine generation of officers running the Pentagon are reluctant to risk casualties

ries to rescue United Nations hostages. There was no explanation why Mr Clinton, who was at the White House, did not attend.

Officials travelling with Mr Christopher to last night's meeting of the five-nation Contact Group in The Hague said the taking of hostages had underscored the need for the UN peacekeeping force to be strengthened and for measures to be taken to reduce the vulnerability of troops. They said the United States supported a French plan to redeploy UN troops from scattered, unprotected bases to more secure positions.

Among Mr Clinton's critics is Lawrence Eagleburger, a former Secretary of State, who urged George Bush to leave Bosnia to the Europeans in the 1992 presidential campaign. He now admits that an "unsolved mess" was left by the Bush team. "The Serbs have trumped our act," he said. Reluctance to risk casualties is a recurring problem among the Vietnam generation of senior officers now running the Pentagon. They prefer a pile-on philosophy for waging battle rather than the incremental, limited build-up that was dictated to them by politicians during the Vietnam War and which they see being repeated in the Balkans.

Mr Clinton has often talked tough about Bosnia and has gone through several policy zig-zags, but he has always refused to send troops to join the UN.

There was one shaft of hope from the Americans yesterday when they claimed that they were close to an agreement with President Milosevic of Serbia to suspend some UN sanctions against Belgrade in return for his recognition of Bosnia within its present borders. The allies believe such a stance would be a huge setback for the Bosnian Serbs seeking unification with a "greater Serbia".

Mr Clinton's Canadian Government came under fire yesterday for appearing too complacent about the fate of Canadian soldiers taken hostage as the opposition pressed for an emergency debate (Richard Cloutier writes). Jean Chretien, the Prime Minister, has yet to make a statement on the crisis.

Leaders unite in concern for safety of soldiers

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

POLITICAL leaders yesterday presented a united approach to the latest crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, arguing that the safety of the 33 British hostages is paramount.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, and Paddy Ashdown, leader of the Liberal Democrats, backed the Government's decision to send more troops to Bosnia as part of a move to protect British and UN forces. Mr Blair was being briefed last night by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, over the latest strategy to

prepare him for tomorrow's debate in the Commons. MPs are being recalled from the Whitsun recess after an emergency meeting of the Cabinet on Sunday night.

Today, in a speech in Bonn, Mr Blair will declare his support for the move to send 6,000 more troops and will emphasise that there can be no question of withdrawing forces while the hostages are still held. While most MPs are expected to back the latest moves, a significant minority led by Sir Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, are expected to argue for the withdrawal of British troops altogether. Other senior Tory MPs, such as David Howell, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, backed the Government but called for more help from other UN countries.

Some MPs are also concerned about whether the troops would go in under a UN mandate or a British mandate. Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said it was vital that the UN mandate be redefined to take account of the role to be played by the new troops. "The immediate focus of Britain must be on our troops who are most at risk. It is very important if we are going to get those hostages out - and get those hostages out - that we do show we are not going to back down," he said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "Talk of withdrawal is deeply unhelpful. It has encouraged the Bosnian Serbs to think they are doing the right thing and to take more hostages."

Mr Ashdown said the Government's action should have been taken earlier, but it was vital to give the field commanders all the backing they needed. "It would be best if these troops went in under the UN mandate as part of the UN, but ultimately Britain has the right and duty to protect its own troops."

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DAY MAY 30

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 30 1995

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IN MADRID

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FILM

In Cannes, Zhang Yimou's colourful *Shanghai Triad* misses the big prize but wins the critics' praise

THEATRE

Eddie Izzard may be the king of the quickfire stand-up routine, but his *Edward II* is slow death on stage

THE TIMES ARTS

POP

No dummies, despite *Dummy*: the 'trip-hop' sensations called Portishead go live in Willesden

MUSIC

New Scottish music is introduced by the Philharmonia Orchestra and the composer James MacMillan

CINEMA: Geoff Brown on the winners at Cannes, where art imitated life as all eyes turned to former Yugoslavia

Loud reports from the Balkan war

How could any one film satisfy both Jeanne Moreau, queen of the French New Wave, and John Waters, the American director whose calling card was a little item called *Mondo Trasho*? Yet this was the task facing the Cannes jury of nine good men and women, not to mention Sharon Stone, the lady designated with the awesome task of handing out the top award. Critics scarcely had an easier time. Days rolled by with-out any competing film running clear from the pack. Even the most warmly received titles — such as Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom* or Theo Angelopoulos's *Ulysses' Gaze* — collected their share of adverse comment. Many titles received nothing but adverse comment.

Beyond the official festival entries, in the wild world of the Cannes market, there were interesting films to be found, but no one title sparked a stampede, unless you count *Barb Wire*, a scheduled vehicle for the buxom Pamela Anderson of *Baywatch*. Then, last Friday, Emir Kusturica's *Underground* arrived: a three-hour blunderbuss of a film, loud and tumultuous, an epic absurdist comedy about war, lies and the agonising history of the director's homeland, Yugoslavia. Suddenly we were staring at what looked like a major film that for all its large imperfections was an inevitable contender for the Palme d'Or. And so, on Sunday night, there was Kusturica shaking Stone's hand, ten years after he collected the same award for his film *When Father Went Away* on *Business*.

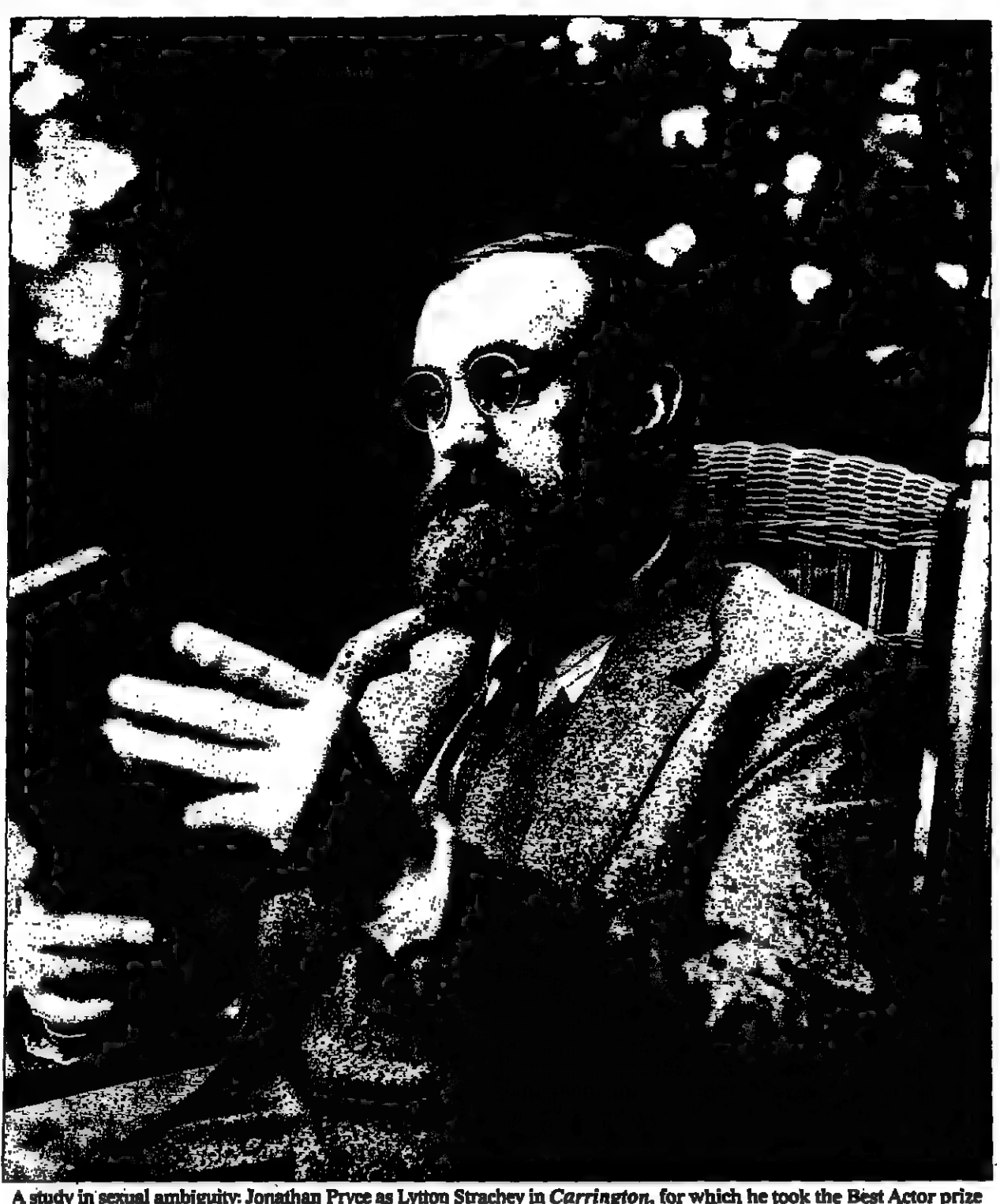
The British stood up on the platform too, though Loach, unfortunately, was not among them: his *Land and Freedom* had to rest content with sharing the international critics' award with *Ulysses' Gaze*. But Jonathan Pryce took the Best Actor prize for his brilliant portrayal of Lytton Strachey in *Carrington*, a film that tickled the European fancy far more than it did us British scribes — the jury also gave it a special prize all on its own. And Nigel Hawthorne stepped onto the dais to accept Helen Mirren's award for the role of Queen Charlotte in *The Madness of King George*.

Underground begins at a furious pace with a rollicking town band, and Hitler's bombs in 1941 interrupting feeding time at the zoo. Animals wander through the de-lirious, fictional characters mingle with archive footage, and the music keeps blaring. Kusturica cannot maintain this intensity, you think. But he does; indeed, he courts audience fatigue by the relentless way he pounds out the tale of Marko, the roguish criminal who neglects to inform the refugees sheltering in his cellar that the war ends and lets them happily assemble guns right through Tito's regime. By the time their delusions are shattered, real war has come again; but for me, if not for the jury, the bitter irony Kusturica intends gets mislaid in the noise, bustle and Fellini-esque self-indulgence.

From his past record, Zhang Yimou, to Western eyes China's star director, might have been expected a major prize. In the event his *Shanghai Triad*, a period gangster drama, only collected a technical achievement award. As the camera glided through the palace of Shanghai's Mr Big of 1930, it was impossible not to be dazzled; this was the Zhang of *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Ju Dou*, the master of decor and colour. A plainer style might have released more of the emotions pent up in this story of trapped innocence, but the film did not deserve the boos it received.

Theo Angelopoulos's *Ulysses' Gaze*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize, began with one of the festival's most magical moments: a blue sailing boat edging into a grey expanse of harbour and sky. Then Harvey Keitel, cast as a filmmaker known by the ominous initial A, launched himself on a three-hour journey across Greece, Bulgaria, the Yugoslav remnants and the inner recesses of Angelopoulos's soul; and the spell faded.

Keitel's trip, supposedly in search of undeveloped footage shot by two Balkan cinema pioneers, throws up other striking images and a good deal of windy talk. When Sarajevo is reached, scenes of wintry desolation cast an authentic chill, but you have to sit through barren stretches to reach the consummation. If Angelopoulos's film won a warmer reception than it deserved, Manoel de Oliveira's *The Convent* unfairly received the cold shoulder. True, you had to be on the right wavelength to extract the best from this fanciful debate about good and evil, laced with echoes of Goethe's *Faust*. But to those tuned to the Portuguese veteran's playful spirit, there were many delights. Two of them were the stars: John Malkovich as the professor convinced that Shakespeare had Spanish blood and Catherine Deneuve as a wife possibly descended from the Devil. At least Jim Jarmusch's existential western *Dead Man* got its just desserts from the audience: glum faces and a sprinkling of shallow laughter. This time the king of laid-back cinema has laid back so far that the film seemed more dead than alive. Johnny Depp plays the naive, peaceable hero turned by circumstance



A study in sexual ambiguity: Jonathan Pryce as Lytton Strachey in *Carrington*, for which he took the Best Actor prize

Britain in new harmony

CONCERT

Philharmonia/
Slatkin
Festival Hall

A SIZEABLE and enthusiastic audience turned up at the Festival Hall on Saturday for an evening of new, and newish, English and Scottish music. The main concert presented the London premiere of Michael Berkeley's *Viola Concerto*; the earlier one, at 6pm, explored works by Magnus Kobbe, Gordon McPherson and Alasdair Nicolson as part of the Philharmonia's enterprising *Music of Today* series. Berkeley's 20-minute, single-movement work — safe, efficient and not particularly memorable — was first performed a year ago at the Lichfield Festival, which commissioned it jointly with the Philharmonia. Now, as then, Roger Benedict was the soloist. Inspired by Yuri Bashmet's playing of the Bartók Concerto, the writing focuses on the very high and very low parts of the viola's voice. A cymbal cues orchestral entries and a succession of instrumental relationships, some of which threaten the soloist, or debate with him querulously. The Berkeley was displayed in a stimulating and sympathetic setting of Britain's *Young Person's Guide*; a witty and properly flamboyant performance of Walton's Symphony No. 2 under the baton of Leonard Slatkin; and, first of all, Slatkin's beloved Elgar in a rare and elegant performance of his bucolic ballet music, *The Sanguine Fan*.

Scottish composer James MacMillan had earlier introduced three of his even younger compositions and an instrumental ensemble from the Philharmonia. Alasdair Nicolson's *Punch!*, written last year, is a wild, episodic fantasy of sly instrumental couplings and daring rhythmic imagination. It really plays to its audience — even to a musical swish of the curtain — unlike Gordon McPherson's *The Bliss of Sexual Ignorance*, a long drawn-out dredging from the musical subconscious of suspended references to Schumann and his *Dichterliebe*. This makes the listener into something of a patient eavesdropper. So, in a different, more mesmerizing way, does Magnus Robb's winsome *The Ancient Language of Birds*, a leisurely exploration of the relationship between vocal (Linda Hirst) and instrumental in-breathing and out-breathing, inspired by the sounds of bird-spirits (among others) encountered in Shamanic rites of passage.

Overdosing on angst

POP

Portishead
Willesden Empire

PORTISHEAD are one of the few acts that can reasonably claim to have both captured and changed the essence of popular music in the 1990s. Combining slow, pseudo-trip-hop rhythms and an echoey swirl of scratch effects with melodies rooted in jazz, their revolutionary debut album, *Dummy*, sparked off the so-called "trip-hop" genre. Released with a minimum of promotion last year, it has recently been certified platinum (for sales of 300,000) in Britain and is turning into a cult hit in America. But the emphasis on sampling and studio-generated atmospherics raised doubts about Portishead's viability on stage. How much of the sombre, dreamy mood would survive in the rough and tumble of a live gig? As far as re-creating the songs went, they performed superbly at the Willesden Empire. A conventional, jazz-based rhythm section augmented by a record-deck operative supplied an intricate weave of real and sampled beats, while keyboard player Geoff Barrow and guitarist Adrian Utley conjured fractured chord sequences and melody lines from a shimmering curtain of sounds. Singer Beth Gibbons was the focus of attention throughout. With her mouth stretched somewhere between a smile and a scream, she conjured words and notes with surprising strength from an ethereal whisper of a voice, her mission apparently to convey stories of intense, unbearable agony. Her lyrics were in reality a string of elegantly delivered non sequiturs — "All for nothing", "Did you really want?", "Nobody loves me, it's true" and so forth — but, if anything, their lack of tangible meaning only enhanced the desolate effect. However, although impressive on its own terms — especially the twitchy arrangement of *Mysterons* and the untypically barnstorming finale of *Sour Times* — the performance as a whole was insufficiently varied and lacked any hint of spontaneity. Even in a set lasting less than an hour, by the end their singular vein of existential, non-specific angst had been mined to the point of exhaustion.

DAVID SINCLAIR

HILARY FINCH

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When you are ready, Eddie

THEATRE

Edward II
Haymarket, Leicester

This is slow torture. One cannot help wishing Eddie Izzard would just stop. The wind whistles quietly to itself; the world waits for his highness to pick up his cue. Eventually, when Edward has withheld comment even after long imprisonment, the Earl of Leicester is driven, on behalf of everyone, to ask him plainly: "My Lord, why waste you thus the time away? They stay your answer." The question as to why he could not have deposited himself weeks ago has never seemed so



Izzard: slow but not stately

justified. Perhaps meant to be stately, Paul Kerryson's whole production is a snail-paced fade between stage zones. Looking unhappy in the doomed royal role, Izzard occasionally trundles aimlessly down one of the set's epic steel ramps like an expressionless teddy bear trying to assume tragic dimensions. High iron walls lean inwards. As both political sides slip into Machiavellian corruption, a subterranean pit pointedly glows red. Meanwhile, huge mesh-grids and thick slices of suadded iron are flown in and out, interrupting scenes, as if England has become the Devil's toaster. Izzard speaks Marlowe's prancing pentameters with his familiar, mildly congested sturriness, scarcely appropriate for Edward's image-span-

gled high rhetoric. Keith-Lee Castle's unsympathetic Gaveston also clumsily halts the poetry's potent, lavish flow. He and Edward effuse over each other with the time lags of an international phone call. Meanwhile, Izzard has cast away all the fizz he has as a comic. He misses Edward's touch of schoolboyish, Faustian anarchy. He suggests Gaveston knock off the bishop's mitre and rechristen him with gutter-water in a humourless monotone. He is never in a passion over his unaccepted grand amour. Consequently, he cannot rise to either petulant tyranny or bravely defiant ardour. Edward is just in a dump, along with the rest of the faintly miserable cast. Still, Vicki Pepperdine does her best as Edward's ignored queen, in turn enthralled by David Leonard's power-greedy Mortimer. In his final moments, Izzard himself touches a chord as a broken human being. Grossly tormented by his guards, who force urine down his parched throat, he weeps like a child at the brief tenderness of his murderer, soon to rape him horribly with a burning poker, but now pouring clean water on his forehead and the palms of his hands.

KATE BASSETT

ABSOLUTE HELL

BY RODNEY ACKLAND

"JUDI DENCH gives a superb performance"



A cruelly compelling, bitterly funny play
EXCELLENT REVIVAL

Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on cancer of the kidney, now recognised as an occupational hazard faced by firefighters, painters and decorators

THE television serial *London's Burning* introduced millions of viewers to the dangers and comradeship of a fireman's life, but the catalogue of potential disasters was not complete. To the obvious risks of smoke inhalation, burning and crush injuries a new hazard must now be added: renal cell cancer of the kidney, more traditionally known as a hypernephroma.

The recent edition of the *British Journal of Urology* reports on an analysis of 1,060 cases of cancer of the kidney in New Zealand between 1978 and 1986. Firefighters were 3.5 times more likely to develop a hypernephroma than the rest of the population. The reason is thought to be exposure to fumes of organic chemicals such as toluene and

Avoid the fumes of organic chemicals

formaldehyde, both known to be carcinogenic (cancer-inducing). One other trade was found to have an increased likelihood of having the same cancer — that of painters and decorators, who inhale carcinogenic solvents and are exposed to chemicals in the paint's pigment. The likelihood of a painter developing cancer is increased by 1.6 times.

Fortunately, cancer of the kidney is not particularly common. It is responsible for about 1.5 per cent of all adult cancers and affects men twice as often as women. There are racial differences in the

incidence of the tumour, which was first described in 1883, but these are thought more likely to be related to the amounts of fluids drunk than to genetic differences.

The classic initial symptom of cancer of the kidney is haematuria, blood in the urine; either so much blood that it is obvious to patients when they are urinating, or in such small quantities that it is only detectable by dipstick testing of a specimen in the surgery.



Haematuria is the reason why 50 per cent of these patients have first sought medical advice.

Two other important early symptoms are pain and swelling in the loin. The pain may be a dull ache, but occasionally causes renal colic, the acute nauseating pain felt in the loin which radiates to the groin and sometimes genitalia. Detecting an enlarged kidney is not always easy, particularly if the patient is obese, but at

every general medical examination the doctor routinely feels for one.

Haematuria, persistent loin pain or a noticeable swelling in the groin are all symptoms that warrant careful investigation, but many kidney tumours are detected only as the result of general examination, particularly since the use of ultrasound has increased. They are sometimes uncovered when a cause is being sought for an unexplained temperature. In 20 per cent of cases in kidney cancer, a raised temperature is the first symptom. In another 3 per cent, the

tumour is discovered because the patient's haemoglobin level is raised, that is to say, the patient is suffering from polycythaemia, the opposite to anaemia. Weight loss and extreme fatigue are also early signs which need investigation.

Ultrasound and CT scanning are revealing cases that might otherwise have remained hidden for months, and surgery is increasingly being undertaken when the outlook is more hopeful. MRI scanners, intravenous radiology and arterial angiography may reveal the tumour's size and spread. Treatment is by surgery since it is usually resistant to radiotherapy or chemotherapy. Overall survival rate is about 40 per cent: when the tumour is confined to the kidney and has not spread, it is nearer 60 per cent.

When ABC is not so simple

Why do some bright children have so much difficulty with words?

Ian Robertson investigates

At the age of ten, Peter was able to diagnose and fix faults in neighbours' cars. Peter had picked up the skills himself — he certainly had not read anything on the subject, because he wasn't keen on reading, unlike his sister, who was top of the class in everything. Peter left school with no qualifications and is now 42, working as an odd-job man, rueful about earning a fifth of his younger sister's salary.

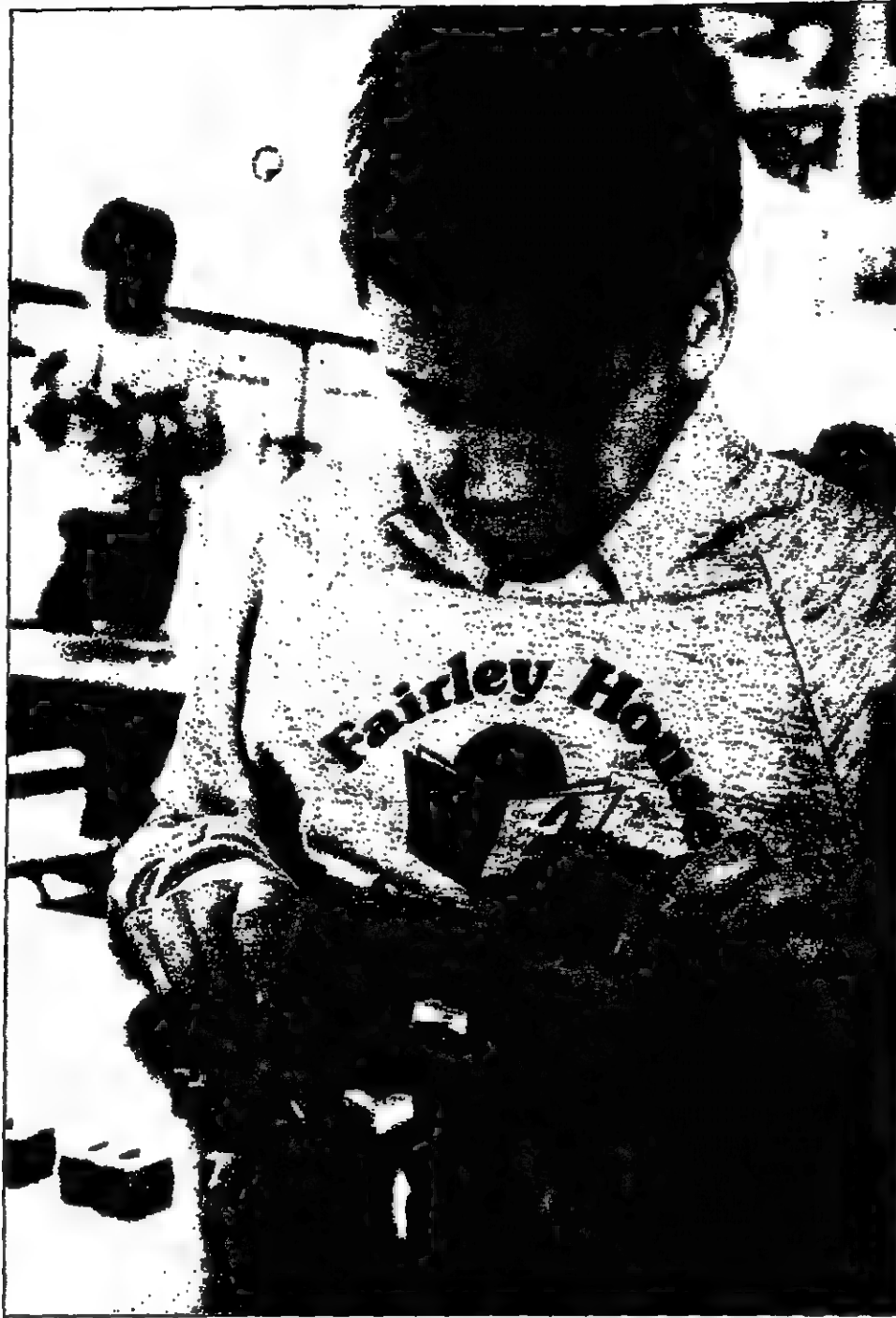
School left Peter with a raw sense of personal inadequacy — the teachers saw him as a "dunce" and treated him as such: he reacted by kicking against the system and becoming labelled a troublemaker. His low self-esteem was deepened further by the contrast with his younger sister, academic star of the school; the resulting tensions irrevocably poisoned their relationship and they never see each other now. In fact, Peter and his sister had the same high IQ of around 130, but Peter had an unrecognised problem with reading and spelling, known as developmental dyslexia, or specific learning difficulty.

Up to 4 per cent of the population — two million people in Britain — may suffer from Peter's problem. However, many do well in spite of their difficulties: according to the British Dyslexia Association, famous dyslexics include Leo-

nardo da Vinci, Tom Cruise and Michael Heseltine. Roughly one child in every class may be dyslexic — 300,000 children in this country. Professor Margaret Snowling of the University of York believes, along with many other specialists, that this number could be reduced considerably — maybe to as little as 1 per cent — if appropriately timed intervention in the early years of schooling were available.

Intelligence and abilities such as reading usually go together, so when intelligence outstrips reading ability in a particular individual by a statistically significant margin, then the child or adult may be diagnosed as dyslexic. Dyslexia has, however, become a highly loaded label: it is a headache to many education authorities, and some middle-class parents have tried to come to terms with having a child who is simply not particularly bright by labelling the child as dyslexic.

"I prefer the term 'specific learning difficulty': the word 'dyslexia' raises such hackles," Patience Thomson, principal of Fairley House School in West London, says. Her school offers specialist help for a range of learning difficulties, including reading. "You might say, 'why pick on reading?'" she says. "Children of normal intelligence can have all sorts of specific problems — say



Concentration: an eight-year-old works with a plastic alphabet

with arithmetic and calculation — which seriously impede them."

But reading is special, because language is central to learning knowledge and concepts, as well as to economic and social survival: research in the United States has found that illiterate adults account for 75 per cent of the unemployed, and 85 per cent of juveniles appearing in court are illiterate. High levels of reading and writing difficulties are a huge handicap not just for the individuals concerned, but also for a country. The high but unused intelligence of a man such as Peter is a serious loss to the economy — and there are tens of thousands like him.

And it could get worse. One report commissioned by the US Congress concluded that the demands for literacy are rising and that levels which are currently acceptable will be inadequate by the year 2000.

Peter is a true developmental dyslexic. His father had reading difficulties, and his grandfather before him, and genetic research confirms that dyslexia can be inherited — indeed some genetic markers have already been identified. There is also some evidence

that the brains of some dyslexics are different, in that the left and right halves of their brains are more symmetrical than is the case in non-dyslexics.

A central problem with dyslexia appears to be with the phonological aspects of language. Phonology refers to the sounds which make up spoken words, and dyslexics find it hard to decompose spoken words into segments. They are poor at breaking words up into syllables, and at judging whether words rhyme or not. As a result spelling is as much a problem as reading, as Edward's letter to the rabbi (above) shows.

It is possible to predict with some accuracy which three- and four-year-olds will have difficulty with reading once they are six and seven. Among other things, the poor readers are not able to repeat the first couple of lines of several nursery rhymes before they learn to read, and they have trouble breaking down the sounds within a word ("phonemic segmentation").

In one test of this ability, children are asked to tap with a stick for each "phoneme" in a word which they hear. So, for instance, they hear the word "cat", and they tap three times

for the phonemes /c/, /a/, and /t/. One study found that the ability to do this in six-year-olds strongly predicted their reading levels a year later.

According to Professor Snowling, who is a cognitive psychologist and international expert in dyslexia, dyslexics tend to have general problems with language.

Typically, they have difficulty with the following skills:

- verbal short-term memo-

ry (ie, the type of memory you need for keeping a new telephone number in your head while you dial it)

- finding the right word when they need it
- judging rhymes
- repeating nonsense words (eg, "slanion")
- distinguishing phonemes which sound alike (eg, /k/ and /g/)

Dyslexics may also have visual problems and difficulties with attention, and these

very considerably from person to person; however, the scientific evidence locates the core of the problem firmly in the ability to make sense of language, particularly its phonology.

Dyslexics often seem to run into trouble with teachers and other pupils because they are slow to take in what the others are saying," Mrs Thomson says. "By the time they come out with their answer, the

They are poor at breaking words up into syllables, and at judging whether words rhyme

conversation has moved on and they seem peculiar, or even insolent, because their responses appear inappropriate. It can result in them being punished by teachers and bullied by classmates."

However, many people with reading and spelling difficulties are not dyslexic; they have simply not been taught well enough — by parents as well as by teachers. Many parents are more inclined to put on a video than to read to their

Diyer Raby

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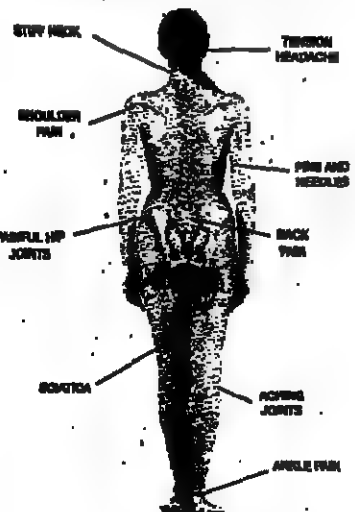
I amee downing very wel in faly Hawn thanks to the sinegog we have better facilities. From Edward

Thank you letter from Edward, aged 11:

Dear Rabbi, Hello. I'm in Hanover and my name is Edward. The people in Hanover loved your little lecture on the Succah. And thank you for inviting us to the Succah. I love your singing, sometimes we can hear it from the science lab. I think that the Jewish religion is very good in explaining how God created everything. I also think that the inside of the synagogue is amazingly beautiful, it is very different and you have a star not a cross. I am doing very well in Fairley House, thanks to the synagogue we have better facilities.

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America is turning its obsession with food into a science, says Kate Muir

At last scientists have put their minds to explaining the curious incompatibility of men and women — not emotionally, but gastronomically. Since 1990, more than 50 American papers have been published on the subject of food cravings, in a desperate attempt to discover — among other things — why a man feels he must have a steak when all a woman wants is a bar of chocolate.

For people eating normally, cravings are rarely there to fill nutritional needs — more likely, they are hormonal or psychological in origin. For instance, younger women particularly crave chocolate, whereas post-menopausal women's tastes become closer to men's, thus ensuring harmonious retirement.

On the whole, women tend to crave fat, sugar and carbohydrates, and men crave protein, fat and salt, according to a study of 1,000 people carried out by Dr Harvey Weingarten of McMaster University, Ontario.

This showed women were

Real men don't eat chocolate

worse affected by unexplained midnight desires for specific flavours of Haagen-Dazs than men: 97 per cent of women said they had cravings for particular foods, compared with 67 per cent of men.

In *Why Women Need Chocolate* just published in Britain by Vermillion, Debra Waterhouse, a dietitian, cites research showing that women crave chocolate and fats when their serotonin and endorphin levels are low, particularly before menstruation.

She claims that men crave meat because they need protein to build muscle, but so far there have been fewer studies of men's eating habits than those of women. In the McMaster study, men said

they longed for steak, hamburgers and lasagne, whereas women's top food desires were chocolate, followed by cakes and ice-cream.

Dr Adam Drewnowski of the University of Michigan thinks that what both men and women want is pleasure: "Fat makes you feel good." He says that cravings in people who eat normal diets are not nutritional, but that does not mean such needs are all bad; studies show that pleasure strengthens the immune system, releasing endorphins.

The cravers par excellence are pregnant women, but their desires may have more of a nutritional basis than most. In the first three months, studies show that women most crave fruit and fruit juice, then chocolate (perhaps needing a sugar

rush to combat low energy) and dairy products. The first and the last may fulfil extra needs for vitamins and calcium.

Now we even know when cravings are most likely to strike. Research from Professor Judith Wurtman of Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows that cravings can occur at any time but are most common in the afternoon and early evening.

Apart from the obvious sensual pleasures of chocolate — the gooey melting, the smell, the sugar and fat — chocolate is also a terrifying mix of more than 400 compounds, including the stimulants caffeine and theobromine, plus tyramine and phenylethylamine, which tend to produce greater alertness and slightly higher blood pressure.

According to the McMaster study, satisfying a specific craving for something like a chocolate bar makes people more satisfied than guilty, whereas bingeing on a variety of foods leads to depression and guilt later.

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Who is the man leading so much of the English Establishment to Rome? Walter Ellis reports

The Pope's gentle persuader

In the end, it was animal rights that swung it. Alan Clark wanted to know the Roman Catholic Church's attitude to the export of veal calves, and Father Michael Seed, charged with instructing the former Defence Minister in the ways of the faith, was momentarily flummoxed.

It was not enough, apparently, that Rome in general opposed the ill-treatment of dumb animals. Clark had surprised friends and supporters the previous month with his vociferous dockside condemnation of live exports and wanted more than mere platitudes before he was ready to confess his own sins.

Father Seed, who has already brought Clark's fellow Conservatives John Gummer, Ann Widdecombe and Sir George Gardiner into the fold, asked for time to consider the matter and retired to his library. There, to his relief, he uncovered a 16th-century Anathema, in which the Pope fulminated against cruelty to animals and placed humanity under an edict to treat them with kindness. Clark was impressed. His instruction continued and Father Seed breathed again.

Leading figures in politics, the media, even the fringes of the Royal Family have been turning increasingly to Rome in recent years — so much so that atavistic fears have been expressed in evangelical circles of a latter-day Popish plot. Yet, call love aside, the idea that Alan Clark, of all people — a man to whom the Seventh Commandment has always seemed more impertinent than imperative — should actively be discussing the finer points of God's will is bound to raise a smile.

His smugness, his disinclination, in politics if not in his diaries, to tell the whole truth, above all his serial adultery, are scarcely the marks of the penitent. The fact remains that he is entirely sincere. At 67, all ambition spent, the suave, multimillionaire master of Saltwood Castle, Kent, is turning his mind from bodily to more spiritual concerns and hopes to be received into the Church of Rome before the end of the year.

It is ironic that both he and his father, the late Lord Clark, should have become late-life Catholics, for it was from their magnificent home, one December night in 1170, that the four knights who assassinated Thomas à Becket, England's most celebrated saint, lodged before starting out on their fatal ride to Canterbury.

Clark's conversion may not rock English Catholicism in quite the same way as the martyrdom of Becket. It must, however, be almost

equally unexpected. It is understood that the former minister (who will not discuss the matter) has been toying for years with the idea of abandoning Anglicanism. Gently nudged by Lord Longford, a convert of long standing, in the direction of Father Seed, he has evidently taken to the "old religion" like a duck to water, satisfied, one imagines, by its ritual, its mysteries and its love of hierarchy.

Father Seed, a 38-year-old Franciscan, understands conversion from first-hand experience. He was born in Manchester into an evangelical Protestant family, with close Ulster connections, and adopted the Roman faith at the age of 17 after several years as a fervent Baptist and member of the Federation of Independent Evangelical Churches, to which the Rev Ian Paisley belongs.

Having studied at the Catholic University of America, in Washington DC, he was ordained into the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, an ostensibly ecumenical order, in 1978 and has been winning converts

for Rome ever since. Cynics have denounced him as a celebrity priest, who likes to spend his weekends in stately homes and who trawls for souls among the aristocracy and the Tory party. A book he published in 1991 records the views on the afterlife of 100 top personalities, including Sir John Gielgud, the Dalai Lama and Billy Graham. His guest-of-honour at the launch party was a former Prime Minister, the late Lord Wilson of Rievaulx.

But while it is true that Father Seed has officiated at the wedding of a cousin of the Duke of Norfolk, Britain's foremost lay Catholic, and is regarded at the Palace of Westminster as a conduit to Cardinal Hume, it would be unfair to characterise him as preoccupied exclusively with the rich and famous.

He is a former hospital chaplain who regularly hears confession and celebrates Mass at Westminster Cathedral, where he is ecumenical officer at the Archbishop's House and unofficial Catholic chaplain to Parliament. Building up the strength of his Church is his primary interest, and just as significant as the number of high-profile celebrities he brings in is the fact that he is currently engaged in weekly dialogue with more than 100 Church of England vicars unable to accept the ordination of women.

Ann Widdecombe, the Tory MP for Maidstone, whose constituency includes Saltwood Castle, believes Father Seed to be a pivotal figure in the conversion business. "He is very sympathetic and a confessor to many of us," she says. Another Kent MP,



Father Michael Seed: cynics have denounced him as a celebrity priest, concerned exclusively with the rich

Robert Dunn, representing Dartford, is the latest Seed-ling to "come over", joining Sir George Gardiner, MP for Reigate, in what is gradually becoming a southeastern Catholic cabal.

Loose associations and "points of contact" are the means by which the network spreads, rather than mass evangelism. Catholic MPs and others prominent in public life introduce their friends to the possibility of conversion much as they would introduce them to a decent club, using such smart London venues as Westminster Cathedral, the

Brompton Oratory and Farm Street Church, in Knightsbridge.

Changes in the Church of England, most notably its introduction of women priests in 1992, have been an obvious catalyst in the revival of interest in the Roman tradition. Class, though, also plays its part. It must be socially acceptable, almost trendy, to be a Catholic in the 1990s. The Duchess of Kent has converted; so has Mrs Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the Prince of Wales. Tony Blair is a regular attendee at Mass and is sending his

son to a Catholic direct-grant school.

Now, with Alan Clark, the highest of high Tories, joining Rome's ranks, it must be assumed that no shred of stigma remains. Father Seed, working with the blessing of Cardinal Hume, is doing his work well, and it is with mounting conviction, often expressed in the accents of the Home Counties, that today's Catholics pray for the conversion of England.

The conversion of the Establishment, crucial to their goal, is already well advanced.

Silly badges are no joke

Who needs Lord Sutch and his party of jocular bores?

I CAN see why William Hill should want to help Screaming Lord Sutch to continue contesting by-elections, but there is no reason why the rest of us, who have less to gain from the plodding bulldozery of the Monster Raving Loony Party, should be treating its imminent extinction as the sad demise of a national treasure.

Of course, the Monster Raving Loony Party is meant to be a joke: say you don't find it funny and you're saying you don't have a sense of humour. But what a dismal phrase that is. The sort of people who stress how important a sense of humour is to them are, inevitably, the worst sort of jocular bores.

The name says it all: not just his, but that of his party.

The word loony is always a sign of heavy-handed unfunniness. It was the most solid and slow-witted girls at school who went in for funny noises and boggle-eyed protestations that "me, I'm just a loony". At university, these are the types who join Humorous Societies and do Monty Python routines. In the office there are japes of the "You Don't Have To Be Mad To Work Here But It Helps" variety.

What all these types fail to recognise — are not equipped to recognise — is that jokes, or even their embarrassingly orchestrated eccentricities, are no substitute for wit. Lord, né David, Sutch may think politics needs livening up, but whereas one can easily call to mind examples of Churchill's wit, it is impossible to think of one funny thing Sutch has said. I'm not sure he's even attempted it.

He thinks wearing a lot of badges and a funny hat is evidence of wit in itself. I'd agree that most of what passes for repartee in the House of Commons doesn't measure up to the Churchillian model, but for irony, satire, amusing asides on the political process, one does not need an inarticulate self-publicist who, at 54, earns his living by playing in a rock band. We've all heard the Tom Lehrer line about his giving up songwriting when Kissinger won the Nobel Peace Prize because, or so he apparently said, he saw that satire had nothing on reality. But what's been going on in Westminster, or in the lives of those who represent us there, offers far

more in the way of arch comment on the political process than Lord Sutch could ever do.

In the line of journalistic duty I once went to the so-called conference of the Monster Raving Loony Party held in a pub in the West Country. Everyone was loud, liked heavy metal and thought the number of beers you could put down was an important matter of debate in itself. It was like a convention of the Young Liberals without their fear-some political convictions.

Along the lines of we all need a good laugh now and again, we are forced to put up with his dreary, self-advertising posturings. Objectors are seen as meanly-mouthed party-poopers: all he's trying to do is put a bit of fun in politics. In this lies a further warning: fun is another danger word, much used by Germans, un-gifted teachers and golf-club pranksters.

In many ways politics now is less dreary than it's been for ages: the jokes come thick and fast, and a lot of them are Tory MPs. Now couldn't be a better time to lose Lord Sutch. Banish sentiment: just because he's been going for 22 years doesn't make him an institution we should cherish.



NIGELLA LAWSON

Too-late show

BUT THEN again the only other intentionally funny politics around at the moment is BBC's *Look At The State We're In*, a series of ten-minute skits on democracy starring various luminaries of the post-alternative comic aristocracy. Some of the skits are funny, many aren't, and even the funniest tend to err towards Britain-as-police-state overkill.

Nonetheless, I presume that the BBC must believe they serve a function, and given the choice between them and the corporation's normal, patronising *How Stupid Poor People Can Claim Their Rights* output, I know which I'd go for.

But having decided that we need a civics lesson, why does the BBC transmit it late at night on BBC2? Complaints about the Bolshiev Broadcasting Corporation will roll in anyway, so why does the corporation not have the courage of its wishy-washy convictions and put the series out just after the lottery numbers?

Is suicide a safe subject?

Libby Purves on the dilemma facing parents and teachers

In a north London classroom, Year 9 have a visiting speaker. The subject is Suicide Awareness. "Hello, I'm Steve. Have you heard of the Samaritans?" A murmur of assent. "They help people? When? ... What is suicide?" Steve Butler goes carefully until he is convinced that he is not telling these children anything they don't know about. The stories tumble out: a girl whose friend tried to take some pills, a boy in the paper who hanged himself.

Children hear about these things. Some of them can empathise frighteningly well with that level of despair. Earlier this month, a girl perched on a railway bridge, ready to jump on to the 25,000-volt power cables. She was persuaded down and the rescuers found that she was 11 years old.

Unusual, terrible, but not unique. Each year there are a handful of proven suicides under 13, and a number of others in which the coroner stretches doubt to protect the family. The Samaritans cite an example where a boy died with a suicide note in his pocket; teachers and friends confirmed his writing, his family steadfastly denied it.

and the verdict was misadventure. Peter Wilson, psychiatrist and director of the children's mental health charity Young Minds, says suicide before puberty is rare. "But puberty itself gets earlier. Ten years old, sometimes."

That children so young should be so powerfully unhappy is something nobody can ignore or belittle. Most psychiatrists regard it as a downward extension of that teenage despair which is a fact of modern life (figures published on Friday by Professor Michael Rutter showed mental disorders in teenagers increasing throughout Europe). On the anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death, *Melody Maker* magazine got so many desperate letters that they passed them to the Samaritans and organised contact groups.

Explanations are legion: the pressures of puberty in a sexually-charged culture, family disintegration, the decline of religion, the stress of unemployment and the panicky inadequacy brought on by media images of glibty success for the few. But teenagers have

a certain reasoning power, and independence: they make their own friends and can respond to talks like Steve Butler's. They are more likely, in extremis, to take his hint and contact outsiders like the Samaritans. Above all, their unhappiness is increasingly recognised by the adult world as potentially dangerous.

With younger children there is a different kind of danger, and a dilemma. If we are reluctant to face the possibility that children might kill themselves, how can we forewarn them of such feelings? And should we? Steve's north London Samaritan youth project has done the suicide talk at two primary schools already, and it "went down well". Their remit concerns over-13s, but the odds are that more primary schools will be interested.

Peter Wilson, of Young Minds, who confirms from clinical experience that younger children are "more fractious, more agitated, more distressed" than their peers of a decade ago, plans a series of initiatives to encourage adults to take children's problems seriously. "They have emotions, dilemmas, worries which we should not belittle or ignore." But would you want your child of ten to hear a talk on suicide? Is it safe to raise the idea with an age group still close to the intense, dramatic "acting out" phase of play?

Myself, I flinched at the idea, with an immediate and probably cowardly feeling that a child without deep problems did not need it, and that one with such problems could be

dangerously fascinated by the idea (much as my own generation of teenage girls thought a great deal too much about Sylvia Plath). Mr Butler is uncompromising. "It is safe. To ask if someone is suicidal does not put the idea into their head. Samaritans know this. I learnt it as a volunteer when I started. I had to be convinced it was safe to mention it. It is."

But to young children? Mr Wilson advocates caution. "In any class there are one or two who feel particularly vulnerable, and you don't quite know what you might be lighting up. This is not a neutral subject, it is a strong subject. One has to build enough support into the system to ensure that some children are not overly sensitised by it."

Mr Butler disagrees: "The idea that a child might get overstimulated is patronising." Mr Wilson says: "Well, if the other alternative is to leave a child completely uninformed, thinking nobody else ever felt that way ... OK. But my concern is that we should not make a specific subject out of suicide. It is better to keep it in a context of growing up, coping with strains and worries. I feel it is safer to keep the subject contained within the whole basket of feelings and problems. Not to make it the central focus."

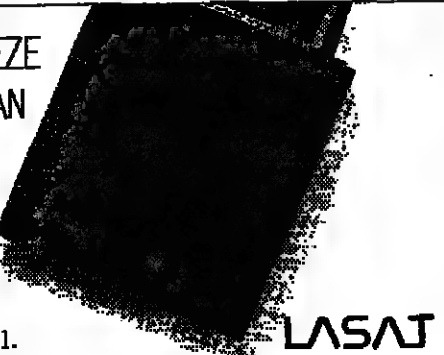
But Kurt Cobain kills himself, Richie James from the Manic Street Preachers vanishes, his car abandoned, near the Severn Bridge; young fans notice. The news reports another overdose after bullying, or before exams; another rescue from a railway bridge. And the children, streetwise and troubled, think their thoughts and ask their questions. Somehow, just as we did with all the other facts of life, we shall have to work out a safe answer to give them.



Teenage despair is extending to younger children

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LASAT

THE TIMES An evening with Baroness Thatcher



To mark the publication of her second volume of memoirs, *The Path to Power*, *The Times*, in co-operation with Dillons, invites readers to an evening with Lady Thatcher. Following the success of her first *Times/Dillons* Forum, when she spoke about *The Downing Street Years*, Lady Thatcher will now turn her attention to the years leading up to her premiership. She will discuss her childhood in Grantham, the profound influence of her father, her marriage to Denis, her early career as a politician and her determined rise to power. She will also give characteristically forthright opinions on some of the century's leading political figures. The forum will be chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, and will offer those attending the opportunity to question Lady Thatcher.

The forum will be held at Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London SW1 on Tuesday, June 13 at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 each (concessions, £7.50) and are available by ringing 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-580 7680, or by sending it, with your remittance, to Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Claes just hasn't got the clout

Jonathan Eyal on Nato's shameful Secretary-General

Nato leaders are meeting today in the Dutch town of Noordwijk at a crucial moment in the alliance's history. Extricating Western troops from the former Yugoslavia is but one pressing matter; potentially much more serious is the question of enlarging Nato to the east. This would be guaranteed to infuriate the Russians, but preserving the most successful military alliance Europe has ever known without radical change is impossible. Nato's Secretary-General, Willy Claes, must go — soon.

Although he has been repeatedly accused of involvement in a financial corruption scandal when he was Belgium's Economics Minister seven years ago, no concrete evidence has been produced. Yet this is hardly the point. Mr Claes should be asked to resign because it is obvious that he possesses few of the leadership qualities required of a Nato boss. His short tenure in Brussels represents the triumph of mediocrity over a unique opportunity. The sooner he goes the better.

Wherever he goes, he bores with his expositions

decisiveness, coupled with discreet mediation efforts between the increasingly divergent interests of Nato members. Claes has proved a failure on all counts.

In an effort to make the Alliance more relevant to its southern members, he helps to launch a "Mediterranean Initiative". A security dialogue with the West's allies in North Africa and the Middle East is urgently required. Success depends on encouraging regimes to withstand the pressure of Islamic fundamentalists by meeting the social and economic expectations of their people, rather than creating a holy league against Islam. Yet Claes did precisely the opposite by publicly proclaiming Islam as Europe's main enemy — a foolish statement which can only weaken the West's allies.

Worse was to come. A recent visit to Washington presented a good opportunity to concentrate Mr Clinton's mind on Europe's security problems and its troubled relations with Russia. Instead, Claes wasted the precious 30 minutes allotted to him at the White House in a risible effort of explaining how many studies he has launched in Brussels on Nato's future. An American tour was also the occasion to bolster Nato before an increasingly sceptical American public, but Claes gave no interviews and used the tradesman's entrance to his hotel so as to avoid journalists.

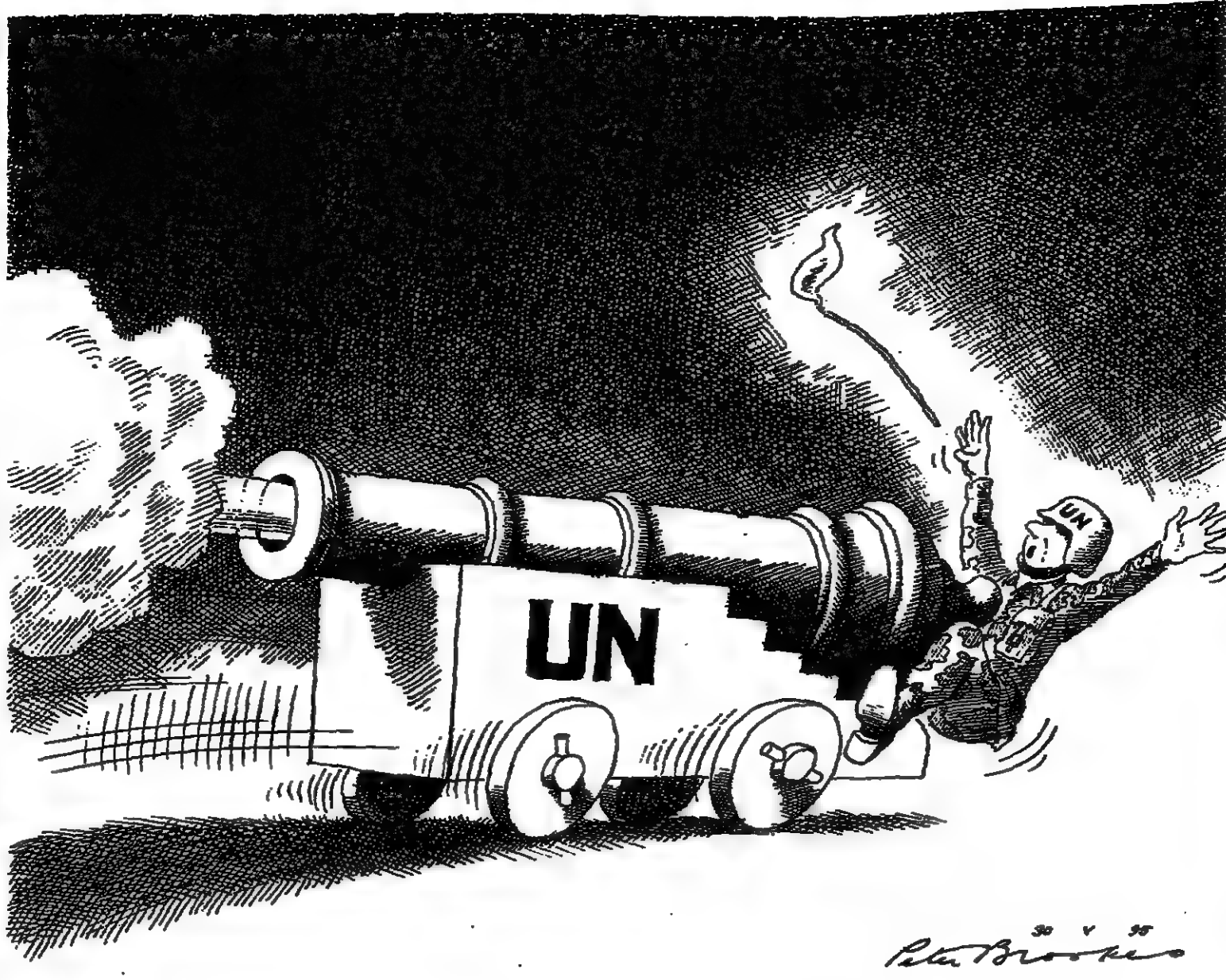
Questions about his involvement in Belgian financial scandals. Everywhere he goes he bores local leaders with irrelevant expositions; a recent visit to Greece and Turkey, on which the future of Nato's southern command depends, ended in complete fiasco.

Claes's immediate associates have started hinting that the Secretary-General is the victim of a smear campaign supposedly co-ordinated in London. Nothing of the kind: his incompetence can no longer be hidden. In preparation for Nato membership, the countries of Eastern Europe are expected to modernise their military equipment while ensuring full democratic control over the armed forces.

A Nato Secretary-General who has admitted to knowing about bribes offered in return for military contracts, and whose house has been raided by state prosecutors, can command no credibility further east. Everyone at Nato headquarters knows this, but nobody is prepared to take any action.

The joke in Brussels is that while the Alliance is united in supporting Claes's decision to stay, member countries will also be fully behind his decision to go. But Claes will not go; Belgian politicians never do. So, for the sake of the Alliance, he should be asked to resign. Helping Belgian police with their inquiries is the best contribution he can now make to Europe's security.

The author is director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute.



A law is a law is a law

However good the cause and whatever the provocation, the authorities must not allow fanatics to break society's rules

Not many weeks ago, I was in the thick of the argument about the animals which were being shipped across the Channel for the filthy, garlic-stinking foreigners to eat, and the howling and screaming (and window-smashing and lorry-damaging) which inevitably now accompanies such merriment, was in full swing. But I have to return to the subject, because a very significant new element has come into the story.

For some years now, there has been a growing belief that animals should not only not be ill-treated — a view that I imagine most of us take — but that they should actually be elevated above the human race. Organisations giving themselves big-boy names such as the Animal Liberation Front send threats of murder, and they have come close to doing it too; bombs have been planted, and serious injuries sustained. Only yesterday animal rights protesters caused £2 million of damage at a milk depot.

They started, as we all now know, with a protest against the conditions in which veal calves are sent across the Channel. Now there is one mark by which you can tell the fake animal lovers from the genuine: it is their voracity. It started with the veal calves and the Channel, but by now it is clear that the Animal Libbers demand total vegetarianism from everyone. You laugh? So did I, until I learnt that these people have smashed countless butchers' windows. No wonder that when the veal calves whistle was given, and the rioting, threatening and smashing (and, incidentally, thieving) had died down sufficiently to take stock of what had been done, the most conspicuous figures left with enough breath to claim a victory looked noticeably pleased with themselves.

And the appetite grows by what it feeds on. I should have known, and I dare say that many saw what was to come before I did. Because, tired of the fun of smashing the windows of lorries (perhaps in the hope of blinding a few of the drivers), they turned their talents to climbing into the trees. Well, some would say that that is exactly where they should be, but there was a reason. A new motorway, the M65, is being built, and this obliges the authorities to cut down some trees. The howlers and screamers are demanding that no tree may be felled, and no road built. As usual with these people, they lie; having

given a promise that there would be only a non-violent protest and that the protesters would leave the trees when asked, they broke their promises, and of course there is no point in telling them that the millions of extra pounds that the disorder will cost could be used for, say, new hospitals or better schools, because they have no interest in such things — only getting themselves in the papers. And then, inevitably, the third leg: we must get rid of atomic weapons. (Yes, they have also been making themselves nuisances at the atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston — ah, Aldermaston, golden days!)

So the heady contagion takes over. First it was Animal Lib, then we had Leave the Trees, next it's Down with Weapons, and — the most recent — Don't Sink Brent Spar oil platform.

Now whether the Animal Libbers send bombs through the post and rejoice when they manage to injure an innocent passer-by, or whether the tree-lovers will sooner or later push a heavy branch down and kill a harmless tree-cutter, or whether Greenpeace is so shocked by those horrid people who want to sink the Brent Spar that we should all knit woolly hats is truly irrelevant.

But something else is very relevant. A voice from outside the organisations must now be heard. It speaks plainly, and among the things it says is that "The implications of such surrender for the rule of law can hardly be exaggerated. If ever there were cases demanding the courts' intervention in support of the rule of law, these are they." Yes, the law has stepped in, and in the nick of time, the judges have given judgment.

Lord Justice Brown said none of the three authorities (Coweney airport, Dover Harbour and Plymouth) had appeared to give the least thought to the awesome implications for the rule of law of doing what they propose.

They said the authorities had no discretion in law to bar the animal exports... Even if they had such discretion, they could not have used it lawfully to ban the trade on the grounds that it would generate unlawful disruption... All three were fiercely criticised for failing to recognise the dangers of surrendering to the dictates of unlawful pressure groups... But the fiercest words were reserved for Plymouth City Council. It was open to grave criticism and its challenge to the refusal by Associated British Ports to impose the ban on Millway Docks was barely respectable. It was a remarkable and regrettable thing that a city council was asking the court to order its own port authority to surrender to mob rule.

It all comes back to the hideous danger of believing that the law can be, and should be, so flexible that it can be adjusted at whim. And let me tell you now, those whims, if they are not caught and put down, will destroy our democracy. Big words, aren't they? "Destroy", "put down", "democracy". Am I making your flesh creep? I'm not? Well, I should be. This country, like all genuine democracies, is built from a framework of laws; it was not put up overnight — many, many years went into their making. Some of those laws are absurd, and some are shocking, and some are even disgraceful. But our democracy has, built in machinery that can take out unwanted laws and put in newly wanted ones. But only the laws can do that to the laws.

Listen to this: "A group of animal rights activists was yesterday in defiant mood opposite the entrance to Coweney airport, where the makings of an encampment were set up. Some protesters promised to break the law if necessary to further their campaign after the High Court ruling."

"To break the law if necessary." Come, I have a small house, and you have a large one; obviously, that is

wrong. So, to put the situation right, I must break the law if necessary, and of course, it is necessary. Indeed, it is right and proper and necessary for me to take your money, and in my necessity I am in the right even if I murder you. You see, it was necessary.

"To break the law if necessary." It was necessary to put a bomb under Hitler's table, with the deliberate intention of killing him. Moreover, the group that organised the coup included a clergyman, Dieter Bonhoeffer. For these heroes it was necessary to break the law. But take the 78-year-old Tilly Merritt, whose face adorned the pages of *The Times*, which reported her struggle to get thicker raincoats for sheep and lower sales for cows — well, in that case I don't think that it is really necessary to break the law.

But the gangs are spreading, and that, I believe, may be the biggest threat of all. Again and again, we see a horde sweeping across a field to emphasise some fraudulent belief, and in every such attack, the law is being broken. Indeed, it worse than that: the hordes are now getting together with no specific aim; to break the law is the goal. Did you notice a small item in the press about livestock and how it can be sent across the Channel? Yes, that story is familiar; but there is something else in it now. The farmers are being asked to put up enough money to buy a freight plane and have the livestock flown over. And the price? A little short of five million pounds. And as far as I can see, I am the only person to be publicly shocked at the suggestion that farmers should pay vast sums because a criminal horde will otherwise make it impossible for them to do their work in any other way.

There is a kind of twisted vanity in this story. The Animal Libbers, and the rest, are all aglow with their little bit of history: they will be able to say that they were there when the Great Fight for Better Holes for Squirrels was won. But meanwhile, if the words of the judges meant what they said, a good many fools are risking prison in the belief that they are saving sheep from the slaughter. Do you remember Keith Mann? No? He was tremendously on the side of the sheep, but he went somewhat too far, in the name of animal rights, he put bombs in warehouses that held animal carcasses. Nobody was hurt, but Mann went to prison for 14 years.

Perils of raising the stakes

Lawrence

Freedman on hostage-taking

The Bosnian Serbs have seized UN troops for bargaining purposes, and for the moment the bargain must seem a good one. They have snatched the political initiative and called Nato's bluff. They now have no need to worry about air strikes. They can shell Muslim towns with impunity. The spectacle of the major powers being wrong-footed by a bold — if not wholly unpredictable — move will have done wonders for Serb morale.

Yet as the Serbs think about their next step, they may have reason to wonder whether a short-term tactical advantage may come at the expense of a strategic catastrophe. They have, in effect, declared war on the UN. The UN slogans of neutrality, impartiality and avoidance of combat have been stripped of whatever meaning they had. For Britain and France, the issue is no longer whether the humanitarian mission is working, but the direct threat to their own personnel.

Hostage-taking is the weapon of the beleaguered and isolated, raising the stakes in the hope of escaping from an otherwise dire situation. The logic is the same whether it involves a criminal caught in a police ambush who grabs an innocent passer-by, or Saddam Hussein sending Western expatriates to strategic targets as "human shields" in 1990 to discourage Allied bombing.

Such acts of desperate expedience can work in the short term. Those who care for the hostages will not willingly put them at risk. The experts will counsel patience, caution and communication. Earnest intermediaries will soon be urging restraint on all sides and a commitment to a peaceful solution. Unfortunately international hostage crises have a habit of dragging on — remember those held in the American Embassy in Tehran through 1980 or by Iraq for much of the second half of 1990. Negotiating with hostage-takers sets a dangerous precedent.

Even from the hostage-takers' perspective, negotiations are problematic. What do they want out of the deal? They will never get another chance to take hostages on this scale, so can they be given up simply to prevent air attacks on the most important strategic target? The temptation will be to deter a wide range of actions, including all Nato air operations. As they have collected hostages of a variety of nationalities, another temptation may be to use them politically, as Saddam did when he offered various governments their nationals back in return for appropriate conciliatory gestures.

It is hard to see how Nato can even offer a promise never again to launch air strikes. Suppose it did. The Serbs' own attitude towards solemn undertakings could give them little reason to believe that any bargain struck in such conditions would be honoured. Bosnia is notorious for the short half-lives of ceasefires and "final offers" without permanence. This is the basic problem in the Serbs' negotiating stance: as soon as they release the hostages, their strategic position worsens.

In ancient times, hostages were handed over precisely as a surety that agreements would be kept. If they lost the hostages, under whatever deal, the Serbs will have lost the guarantee. So rather than handing the hostages over as part of a deal, the Serbs will probably hold them until they come to see them as a liability. This is what happened in Iraq in 1990.

Meanwhile, the hostages must be kept healthy and on view, yet also dispersed and unavailable for rescue. If the UN takes steps that the Serbs find unduly threatening, they may have to decide whether to murder the hostages in cold blood. Presumably the executioners will understand the implications of their actions in terms of international law and future war crimes trials. The moment hostages are harmed, the stakes for individuals as well as the Serbs as a people are raised even higher.

It is widely assumed that the Serbs' basic objective is to persuade the UN to withdraw. Yet that would not be the optimum outcome for the Serbs. From one perspective, the role of UN troops has from the start been to provide the Serbs with potential hostages, for they have been deployed in small, lightly armed and vulnerable pockets. If they were removed or regrouped in more defensible positions (abandoning such enclaves as Gorazde and Srebrenica), the inhibitions against future air strikes would be correspondingly reduced. The logic of the new situation is that the Serbs have an interest in making withdrawal or regrouping as difficult as possible, which can only add to the impression that they are at war with the UN.

The initial response from Paris and London has been to reinforce rather than retreat. The Bosnian Serbs have become even more isolated, with President Milosevic in Belgrade finding it easier to disown them. So long as they hold UN hostages, they cannot expect a permanent settlement along the lines they want: once they release them they cannot rely on restraint in Western policy.

Track record

SUGGESTIONS that Labour has gone to the dogs should be taken seriously. Two greyhounds are making strides for the party in Scotland, and have recently put in a visit to Westminster to meet their number one fan, John Prescott.

The hounds, Labour Victory and Labour Leader, are showing spectacular form. They belong to William McKelvey, Labour MP for

Kilmarnock and Loudoun. Labour Victory, a brindle and white dog, has clocked up nine firsts out of 12 starts, culminating in a flying win last week in an open race at Glasgow's Shawfield track.

Labour Leader, a fawn bitch, has been less consistent, but she gets the thumbs-up from Jim Cremin, greyhound editor of the *Racing Post*. "They are class animals," he

declares. "Labour Leader looks like being good over a longer distance."

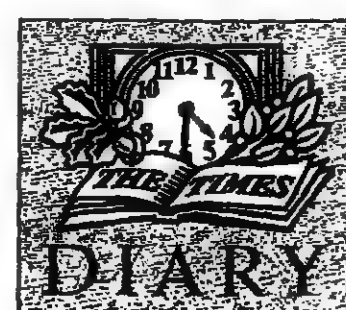
McKelvey took the dogs over from Sam McCuskie, the former seaman's union leader, who could no longer look after them because of ill-health. As chairman of the parliamentary greyhound group, McKelvey is a difficult man to please. "Labour Leader has been slightly disappointing, but she is coming into form now. Some say she's been slowing up at the finish line to smile for the cameras."

● With Will Carling injured, England's manager for the Rugby World Cup, Jack Rowell, watched the rest of the team heading off on surfboards to the shark-infested waters off Durban at the weekend. "Make sure you come back," he called plaintively.

More vroom

SIR ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER claims to be out of pocket after betting that his Mercedes performs better than a Bentley owned by his art dealer David Mason.

Mason took delivery of his new Bentley only recently, and has since badgered the composer to clear their stables for the event at Dummer Down Farm, their Hampshire home, in July. Space will be made for some 60 cars. Drivers will have to pay £20



Unconvinced, Lloyd Webber threw down his motorhome glove the other day and bet him £20 that his car performed better than Mason's Bentley (which broke down three days after delivery). After detailed research in car magazines, Lloyd Webber claims victory, but Mason disputes this. "A man of honour would have paid up by now," says the composer.

With nobs on

MAJOR Ronald Ferguson and his wife Susan are the latest to plan an aristocratic car boot sale. They are encouraging friends and relations (the Duchess of York included) to clear their attics for the event at Dummer Down Farm, their Hampshire home, in July.

Space will be made for some 60 cars. Drivers will have to pay £20

to set up, and the money will go to Wellbeing, the women and babies charity. "It's going to be slightly upmarket from junk," says Susan.

No abating

IF VILLAGERS found that previous operas at Garsington House, Oxfordshire, disturbed their tranquillity, they should beware next month's production. David Fielding, regarded as the enfant terrible behind several ENO productions, is rehearsing a huge orchestra for a



"Why so much for running an electricity company?"

little-known, high-voltage Strauss work, *Daphne*.

Leonard Ingram, Garsington's creator, won a court action recently against locals who protested at the noise, and is clearly not tempted to turn down the decibels. "Daphne is vintage Strauss: vibrant and exciting — rather like Elektra," he says. And Elektra, explains an opera buff, "starts *molto fortissimo* and stays there."

Mo' bray

A STUBBORN gathering of braying beasts will take place next month at Melton Mowbray. The British Mule Society's gala day is intended to draw attention to the role of the mule in the war. The highlight will be the first demonstration for 50 years of loading the British Army pack saddle on a mule. This will be followed by the so-called "handy mule course", said to be "a great test" of mule skill.

Honorary secretary Lorraine Travis says mules fully deserve their celebration. "There were more mules than horses in both world wars. They played a significant role in Burma" — where some were landed by parachute.

P.H.S



Labour's deputy leader, with leading Labour runners



CLARKE KEEPS HIS NERVE

The Chancellor's defiance on interest rates has paid off

If a week is a long time in politics, a month can sometimes seem an eternity in economics. Just under a month ago, when Kenneth Clarke was preparing for his last monthly meeting on monetary policy with Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, there was an almost universal expectation that British businessmen and homeowners would face an immediate increase in interest rates. The economic sag was giving warning of the dangers of inflationary overheating, the Bank was publicly panicking about the weakness of sterling and the City was insisting that an increase in base rates would be inevitable, even if it was not required economically.

When the Chancellor and the Governor meet again in a week's time, the prospects could hardly look more different. Some of the same pundits, who were predicting a month ago that British interest rates would eventually rise to 8 per cent or even higher, are talking about the present 6.75 per cent marking a cyclical peak.

The worries about capacity shortages and inflation have suddenly been replaced by alarm about stagnating production and falling demand. Meanwhile, the curious issue of monetary "credibility", which obsessed the financial markets and politicians before the last monthly meeting, seems to have been forgotten. The Chancellor overruled the Governor and the Governor made his displeasure clear. Yet the sky did not fall in.

In fact, when the Chancellor called the Bank's bluff, the result was exactly the opposite to what the pundits predicted. Sterling rose and long term interest rates fell sharply, implying, at least according to the theories propounded by Mr George, that investors' fears about the future had been reduced. Meanwhile, the strong economic statistics issued just before the last monetary meeting — and described by the Chancellor, to widespread derision, as surprising and

unreliable — were revised sharply downwards. In fact, the Government statisticians revealed last week that domestic demand fell in the first quarter of the year, the first such fall since the end of the 1992 recession.

The downgrading of Britain's economic figures was not, of course, good news. But the business community should find encouragement in the Chancellor's willingness to defy the Bank and to damage his reputation in the City in order to avoid taking an unnecessary risk with the economic recovery. The fact that the Chancellor's judgment appears to have been vindicated by events should offer some reassurance to businessmen, homeowners and consumers who will now have to make investment decisions in a weaker and more uncertain economic environment than they have faced for two years.

But what makes the shift in British sentiment on interest rates far more significant is that it reflects a global change. Around the world, investors, businessmen and even Bundesbank officials have stopped warning us about the inevitability of monetary tightening and have started suggesting that the next moves in interest rates will probably be downwards. As the American and German economies show clear signs of slowing, the world as a whole is recognising that economic weakness, rather than inflation, is the more serious danger in the next year or two.

This does not mean that policymakers can completely forget about inflation. Justified inflation alarms may occur in the months ahead — and businessmen in Britain would be prudent to expect one further increase in interest rates. Give or take half a percentage point, however, the prospect of a long period of moderate and stable interest rates does seem to lie ahead for some time to come. To achieve this Mr Clarke must keep his nerve. But, judging by recent experience, that at least can be expected.

OTHER PEOPLE'S SPIES

When the interests of Germany and morality collide

Realpolitik is one of the few German words in the English political lexicon and the German Constitutional Court's decision that spies for the former East Germany should not be prosecuted is a fine example of that. The political, economic and spiritual healing between East and West Germany has been slower, more costly and more fraught than many expected; attempts to set right past injustices or the historical record only inflame the wounds left by the Berlin Wall; many politicians in both East and West now suggest that it is time to draw a line under the Cold War. The Constitutional Court, with its knack of taking decisions that suit the prevailing mood, has given such suggestions its imprimatur.

The consequences are far from universally welcome. Marcus Wolf, the long-time East German spy-master, may now no longer have to serve his six-year sentence for espionage. Dozens of men and women who plotted the subversion of West German democracy, using blackmail, bribery and intimidation, will escape retribution. Moles who burrowed into the fabric of democratic institutions but were never called on to set their sabotage in train may now openly brag about escaping detection.

The basis for the court's decision is the provision in the Constitution that all Germans must receive equal treatment. This has been taken to mean that those who obeyed the laws of a legitimate and recognised East German state cannot be discriminated against after that state's disappearance. The reasoning is the same as that used in court by Herr Wolf, by border guards on trial for shooting escapees and by

Stasi agents — "I was only obeying orders." Such a defence was invalid for those accused of Nazi crimes under the Third Reich, itself judged as a criminal regime. But the totalitarian and unsavoury German Democratic Republic was recognised, aided and even embraced by West Germany.

By such arguments it would be unjust to level the charge of treason against citizens who were obeying the legitimate orders of a legitimate Government. Or, to put it more baldly, if Herr Wolf were to face trial for his more brutal activities, why should Klaus Kinkel, then head of the equivalent West German security agency, not do so also?

What such arguments imply is that espionage is value-neutral. This argument is furiously contested by former dissidents in East Germany, as well as by many victims of Stasi spying. To those outside Germany, there is a clear cause for grievance here. But within Germany the prospect of an ever-widening argument over collaboration, surveillance and all the dark secrets with which so many former East Germans are compromised, is judged to be against the interest of forging a new pan-German identity. It is pointed out that if the court's decision is interpreted to cover only espionage, cases can still be brought against those accused of violating human rights. The Stasi files are not closed, and there is sufficient pressure to insist that the past is not simply erased.

The Court decision may help the larger goals of German society. For many that argument can never be sufficient. But then *Realpolitik* is not a doctrine constructed to serve the conscience.

OUT-OF-POCKET MONEY

Britain's youngest wage earners have seen their incomes erode

A long time ago, when tuppence could buy a bag of gobstoppers or a weekly edition of Enid Blyton's *Sunny Stories*, middle-class children were often paid weekly pocket money at the rate of a penny for every year of their life. Inflation has hit the younger end of the labour market as ferociously as any other segment of the population. According to a survey by the TSB, the national going rate is now £3.50 — a considerable gain, even in real terms.

That figure, however, shows an incredible drop of more than a third in one year. The recession trickled down to the lowest rungs on the ladder of life more slowly than elsewhere, and until 1994 the children's weekly wage packet contained a generous £5.30. Only now are Britain's youngest consumers finding out what it is to have to cut down on sweets and crisps, the precursors of those adult addictions, booze and fags. They are remarkably uncomplaining. The survey, somewhat dubiously, found that most admitted they had been overpaid for years and have taken the cut in their stride.

Other indicators reveal similarly alarming traits of innocence. The remuneration rate is far higher in the North, where 14-year-olds can command a weekly £8, than in the South, where the cost of good living — confectionery, magazines and pop star stickers — is appreciably higher. Yet there has been no demand to make up this differential, no campaign for a London weighting. Worse, the shop-and-spend urge seems to be poorly developed. Twelve-year-olds save

almost half their weekly pocket money, even at 16 they have not shaken off such thrift, saving about a third of their earnings.

The chances of raising pocket money rates would seem to be slim, when the bosses are running short. The great drawback is the monopoly supplier. Children have tried diversifying: the paper or milk round, babysitting, shop work and waitressing are the favoured alternatives, but falling demand and tougher competition from the less annually challenged have reduced the openings.

What children need — appropriately in today's climate — is a raising of self-worth. Banding together in old-fashioned unions will not work: it was tried, briefly, in the Seventies but never got anywhere. Not only are wage negotiations on an unequal power basis, but one or two siblings are hardly enough to form a viable union branch.

Withdrawal of labour is also counter-productive: at best it results only in an untidy bedroom, at worst a clip round the ear. Piece-rates can perhaps be negotiated for individual plates to be stacked in the dishwasher, but most contracts for household chores seem to be unrelated to defined level of remuneration. The answer would therefore seem to be a quiescent acceptance of present rates, the occasional reminder about restoring cuts, and the generous application of charm before proposed visits to the cinema or shopping centre to persuade the providers to fund the particular enterprise planned as an exceptional one-off.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Only one possible response to Serbs'

From Professor Adrian Hastings

Sir, For three years the legitimate Government of Bosnia has struggled with the most ruthless and powerfully armed terrorist organisation in the world. It has remained incredibly humane, as anyone visiting Sarajevo or Tuzla must recognise, yet the international community has chosen to retaliate inhumanity that it cannot "take sides" between the two.

The opportunistic decision announced today by General Mladic to unchain UN peacekeepers from the doors of his ammunition dumps in no way diminishes the absolute moral and political necessity to avoid compromise. For the world to back down from full support for General Smith's position would be an intolerable abandonment of the international stance against the terrorist use of hostages.

There is only one possible response which is not a betrayal both of all international order and of Bosnia: release all UN hostages within six hours, hand over the guns you have seized, respect the 20-kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo and cease to shell any safe areas. If you do not, every single military target you possess will be pounded by Nato, the arms embargo on Bosnia will immediately be lifted, and every person in any way involved in the maltreatment of UN hostages will be pursued, tried and sentenced as a war criminal. There is no other way.

Yours sincerely,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
University of Leeds,
Department of Theology and
Religious Studies,
Leeds LS2 9JT.
May 28.

Role for the Paras

From Mr S. W. G. Pettigrew

Sir, The BBC reported on May 23 that there is to be a review of the role and training of The Parachute Regiment. Apparently they are underemployed, whilst their brother regiments of the line are over-stretched. Furthermore, the role of parachuting is in military decline.

Surely an obvious role for these battalions is to become the permanent infantry element in the newly formed UK Airborne Brigade? Continued but limited parachute training, coupled with the Paras' knowledge of aircraft and their air experience and existing equipment, would be invaluable in this role.

A further logical step would be to regroup them administratively with the Army aviators, who fly the combat helicopters and form the other main element of the brigade.

Such a reunion would be a welcome return to the Paras' origins in the Second World War.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PETTIGREW,
The Daily,
Rolly Road, Lambourn, Berkshire.
May 24.

Vanished hall

From Mr Martin Best

Sir, On May 15 you published a letter, quoting an earlier report (April 28), which suggested that the BBC Concert Hall was now back in use. It seems that this impression has gone unchallenged.

The Concert Hall is not in use because it no longer exists. As one who has had the privilege of performing and recording in it on many occasions, it was with some sense of shock that I was asked by the receptionist at Broadcasting House "not to call it the Concert Hall, but the Radio Theatre".

The recent alterations to the hall have reduced the height of the stage, carpeted the entire area, and covered the seats in plush. The result is that its acoustic properties, which were integral to its original design, have vanished into thin air.

It is not for me, as a musician who has some cause to be grateful to the BBC, to criticise it for this change; but it is surely to be questioned whether a beautiful small hall, of which there are precious few in London, should be allowed to be treated in such a fashion. Its new format as a "Radio Theatre" is certainly successful for that purpose, but that is rather like saying that Oxford University could do the same thing to the Holywell Music Room if it chose to do so.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BEST,
The Dairy House,
Encombe, Wareham, Dorset.
May 24.

Prisons in Japan

From the Director General of the Correction Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Justice

Sir, The allegations on which you base your report of May 17 on the Japanese prison system are groundless.

Mr Sigmund Kai Falkinn, the Briton arrested in Tokyo on a robbery charge in 1990, alleges that he was maltreated in Tokyo Detention House. This is untrue.

Though Mr Falkinn brought a lawsuit against the Japanese Government, making this false allegation, his claim was dismissed by the Tokyo District Court on March 15, 1995, for lack of evidence. Mr Falkinn did not appeal

Use by an MP of another's name

From Mr Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, The Speaker's decision last Monday (report, May 23) disposes of one MP using the name of another, without the latter's permission, to table an amendment to the Gas Bill. She did not, however, deal with wider issues which urgently need investigation.

A "Focus" report in *The Sunday Times* (May 21) suggested that the particular example investigated by Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme on May 17 was not an isolated one. A similar view was expressed by the Conservative MP, Edwina Currie, in an interview on ITN, also on May 17, in which she indicated her belief that MPs frequently put down amendments in the names of others — a tactic she regarded as "disrespectful".

The Nolan committee did not consider this tactic and what might be done to counter it, but it did put particular emphasis in its report on probity in standing committees, where millions of pounds can often be dependent upon particular amendments. The public are entitled to an

assurance that the outcome of such amendments is not determined by financial interests.

The House of Commons must now, through its Select Committee on Members' Interests, seek to reassure the public by answering two questions. The first is whether it has indeed been a widespread practice for MPs to put down amendments in the names of others; and if so, under what circumstances, if ever, such a practice is acceptable. The second is whether this tactic has been used to evade the rules of the House of Commons on the declaration of interests.

If the House fails to take action and it is discovered, perhaps through the kind of investigative journalism that revealed the existence of this tactic in the first place, that there has indeed been such widespread evasion, the Commons will fall even further in public esteem than it has already.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford.
May 24.

Judges and the course of justice

From Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Why is informed public opinion so much at variance with the judiciary over the proper sentencing of the Whitehead (letter, May 24)? I suggest that a part of the answer lies in differing approaches to criminality.

The offence of perverting the course of justice is treated by the courts as a serious offence because, to use the words of Lord Justice Swinton Thomas, it "undermines the rule of law". No doubt lying to a police officer in order to escape the penal consequences of a road traffic offence is intrinsically a grave matter. But where on the spectrum of criminality should we put it? Surely, well below the boundary line between custody and liberty.

This is because there was no per-

sonal victim of the offence of perverting the course of justice except the State in its administration of criminal justice on behalf of society. The courts instinctively label the crime in a generalised way and draw penal consequences accordingly, whereas the correct approach is to assess the particular criminal event.

Some perversions of criminal justice may be so grave as to warrant, exceptionally, a term of imprisonment. But such sentences should not be used as general deterrence. There can be no place for judicial *amour propre*.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
2 Ripplevale Grove, NI.
May 24.

Expanding Heathrow

From Mr Alexander W. Thom

Sir, Environmentalists and local authorities are opposed to a fifth terminal at Heathrow (Focus, May 16; letters, May 16, 23). Surely these people are ostriches: they don't fly, they bury their heads in the sand as soon as progress threatens.

Why all the fuss about an up-to-date building which is to be constructed between two existing runways? Do the objectors believe that passengers, having flown the Atlantic, are going to queue up to get through our existing terminals, which were built before the current volume of traffic was anticipated?

Whether we like it or not there is going to be a vast increase in air traffic, but this will not mean more aircraft. I understand that British Airways is replacing its present stock of aircraft with larger, quieter, cleaner planes which will carry around 800 passengers and could reduce night flights.

Role in Europe

From Mr Anthony Simpson

Sir, Lord Denning's criticism (letter, May 20) of the Foreign Secretary's tribute to the European Union's role "in preserving the peace for 50 years" misses its point on two counts.

First, although the title European Union only dates back to 1993, the first European Community Treaty, creating the Coal and Steel Community, was signed in 1951. It was based on the 1950 Schuman Plan, itself conceived to end the traditional Franco-German enmity which had caused three wars in Western Europe between 1871 and 1939. In this aim, its success has been total.

Secondly, although Nato was the indispensable military organisation uniting Western Europe, the European Community provided the economic prosperity necessary to maintain it. At the same time, the European Community was the guarantee of parliamentary democracy and human rights; it kept alive hope and faith in Eastern and Central Europe and ultimately helped those nations to bring Soviet domination and the Cold War to a peaceful conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY SIMPSON
(MEP for Northamptonshire and South Leicestershire, Conservative, 1979-94),
Avenue Michel-Ange 57,
1040 Brussels.
May 23.

Common sense should tell our ostriches that the present terminals were designed for an era which is coming to a close. Either we cater for increased flow of air passengers or they will use another airport in Europe.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. THOM,
Lynbrook, 69 Narcot Lane,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire.
May 26.

From Professor J. N. Robinson

Sir, Mr Lucking (letter, May 23) tells us that between February 1990 and March 1994 unemployment within 15 miles of Heathrow rose from 86,000 to 231,000. During this period passenger movements at Heathrow increased substantially. Clearly the best way to eliminate unemployment within 15 miles of Heathrow is not to build Terminal 5 but to close down the whole of Heathrow.

Yours faithfully,
NICK ROBINSON,
14a South Hill Park Gardens, NW3.

Touching a brief

From Dr R. A. Goodbody

Sir, Delay in submission of briefs to barristers (letter, May 22) is sometimes caused by solicitors failing to obtain expert opinions until very late in the preparation, particularly when medical evidence gathered by the prosecution is not fully understood. I have had several instances this year when the cause of death and of injuries given by the prosecution were successfully challenged in court.

Obtaining hospital case notes, which may be vital, often takes ages. Statements made at coroner's inquests may have to be sought and analysed. On occasions I have been instructed after the brief had been sent to counsel, who had only then spotted that the Crown medical adviser had not considered possible alternative explanations for death or injury.

The opinion of an independent pathologist should be sought whenever serious criminal charges are likely and, in civil actions, whenever the timing and mode of death or injury is likely to influence the outcome: for example, when two or more people are killed in motor accidents and the inheritance of an estate has to be decided on the basis of exact time of death.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. GOODBODY,
57 Kingsway,
Chandlers Ford, Hampshire.
May 24.

Threat to choice in private forestry

From Lord Gisborough

Sir, All round the world we see the success of privatisation confirming the greater business efficiency of the private owner over the public authority. But with private forestry we see the opposite.

Over the centuries private individuals have lovingly created our fine landscape of hardwood, making arborescences and practising conservation as a matter of course. They have thinned, pruned and replanted to maintain the countryside we so love.

Now local authorities are increasingly using their powers to "conserve" that woodland, particularly if it has been well kept, and are demanding bureaucratic control over the very creators of it.

Once a conservation order has been made, maintenance of the fine woodland becomes subject to greater delay and expense, and any replanting has to conform to the whim of the planning officer. My own home wood, with its fine hardwood that I have so carefully managed, has now been "conserved", and I can no longer prune or thin it without local authority consent. Even the young woodland I have planted myself, once it is over four inches, is subject to planning control when I want to thin it.

There is no point in my growing hardwood if I cannot manage it as I see fit, so, under the threat of conservation, I now plant softwood.

Local authorities must have the power to conserve trees, particularly where trees of community value are in danger of being felled. But they should let the private forester get on with his job if he is doing it well: otherwise he will lose interest, pre-served woodland will deteriorate, and new planting will be of softwood.

Yours etc,
GISBOROUGH,
Gisborough House,
Gisborough, Cleveland.
May 25.

Rail rage

From Mr David Loshak

Sir, I entirely sympathise with Mr Andrew Bradford, who reports (letter, May 22) the failures of British Rail in Aberdeen to answer his telephone calls.

On May 18, after the "Talking Timetable" for trains to Oxford would give me only details of trains to Plymouth, I rang Paddington. There, an answering machine offered the choice of going back to the Talking Timetable or being held in a queue of unstated length, during which time "no tone will be heard".

This must be the most user-hostile answering system imaginable, leaving one indefinitely in limbo, with a powerful, mounting, increasingly expensive and possibly accurate impression of having been cut off. At 4.50pm, having waited in silence for eight minutes, I tried BR Customer Services (now under "Rail Businesses"). The operator, who answered only after some 20 rings, said they had all gone home.

Complaining is pointless. Responsibility under the barmy new arrangements is so fragmented (for Paddington to Oxford, Thames Trains, GWR, Railtrack, Rail Businesses and BR are all involved) that everyone passes the buck and nobody carries the can.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID LOSHAK,
169 Half Moon Lane, SE24.
May 22.

Prayers for the dead

From Mrs Sue Flavell

Sir, As I have always believed that only God is our judge I was somewhat surprised to read that Canon Peter Bretz (letter, May 23), having seen many people through the moment of their "death", considers that "not one was good enough for heaven or bad enough for hell".

Yours faithfully,
SUE FLAVELL,
516 Bells Cottage, Church Lane,
Timberland, Lincolnshire.

From Mrs Charlotte Wallis

Sir, God is not bound by the progress of time as we are, and time itself is so simple as it seems. Who is to say that our prayers for the dead are not heard by God at the time of death?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE WALLIS,
14 Tenbury Road,
Clebury Mortimer, Worcestershire.
May 25.

Striking a chord

From Mr Peter May

Sir, It was with a mixture of astonishment and pleasure that I read (Diary, May 24) of the Derbyshire men who were "brought before the courts for being drunk in charge of a horse and cart singing the Hallelujah Chorus".

The equine half of this remarkable duo must surely have recently been shod by an harmonious blacksmith; and I cannot bring myself to doubt that, during the performance, it rained for ever and ever.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MAY,
43 Freston, Paston,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

NEWS

Ministers meet to ease Bosnia crisis

Foreign ministers of the Western allies and Russia went into emergency session in an attempt to find a formula to ease the growing tension caused by the Bosnian Serbs' taking of United Nations hostages.

As they met, General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb commander, announced that he had stopped chaining hostages to potential targets as human shields against Nato air strikes. Pages 1, 10, 11, 16, 17

Animal rights link to arson attacks

Security was tightened at 55 Milk Marque depots around the country after arson attacks linked to animal rights groups caused damage estimated at £2 million. Complex incendiary devices destroyed or damaged 38 tankers at depots in Macclesfield and Crewe. Pages 1, 16

Saga of Britain

An epic series that will tell the definitive history of the British Isles in 15-minute episodes every weekday for a year is to be broadcast on Radio 4. Page 1

Homework charter

School inspectors have found, contrary to all expectations, that children actually enjoy homework, and are to recommend that state schools should introduce "homework charters" setting out how much extra study is expected of pupils. Page 1

Union chief accused

The bitter struggle for leadership of the Transport and General Workers' Union intensified as Bill Morris, the general secretary, was accused of using "sexist claptrap" to undermine his opponent, Jack Dromey. Page 2

Crash victims named

Six teenagers died of suffocation when their car hit a tree and exploded. The occupants of the red Metro, driven by a 19-year-old woman, were enjoying a night out when their car crashed in south London. Page 3

The modesty of Muir

Jean Muir, the diminutive designer who died at the weekend, stood head and shoulders above the rest of the industry with her vision of fashion: that women's clothes should be simple, flattering and easy to wear. Page 5

How to upset your colleagues

The three worst sins office workers can commit in the eyes of their colleagues are to interrupt them on the telephone, talk loudly in front of their desk or arrive late for meetings. It is almost as bad to eat at your desk, make private telephone calls or leave old coffee cups lying around, according to a new guide published by the Industrial Society. Page 3

Price of freedom

The rise in crime and alcohol and drugs abuse among young people since the Second World War may have been caused partly by teenagers' increased freedom, rather than unemployment and poor living standards, according to a report. Page 6

Historic sale

Sixteen paintings belonging to a solicitor who knew enough to hang half the dukes and duchesses in the kingdom are expected to sell for about £1 million at auction. Page 7

Rescuers lose hope

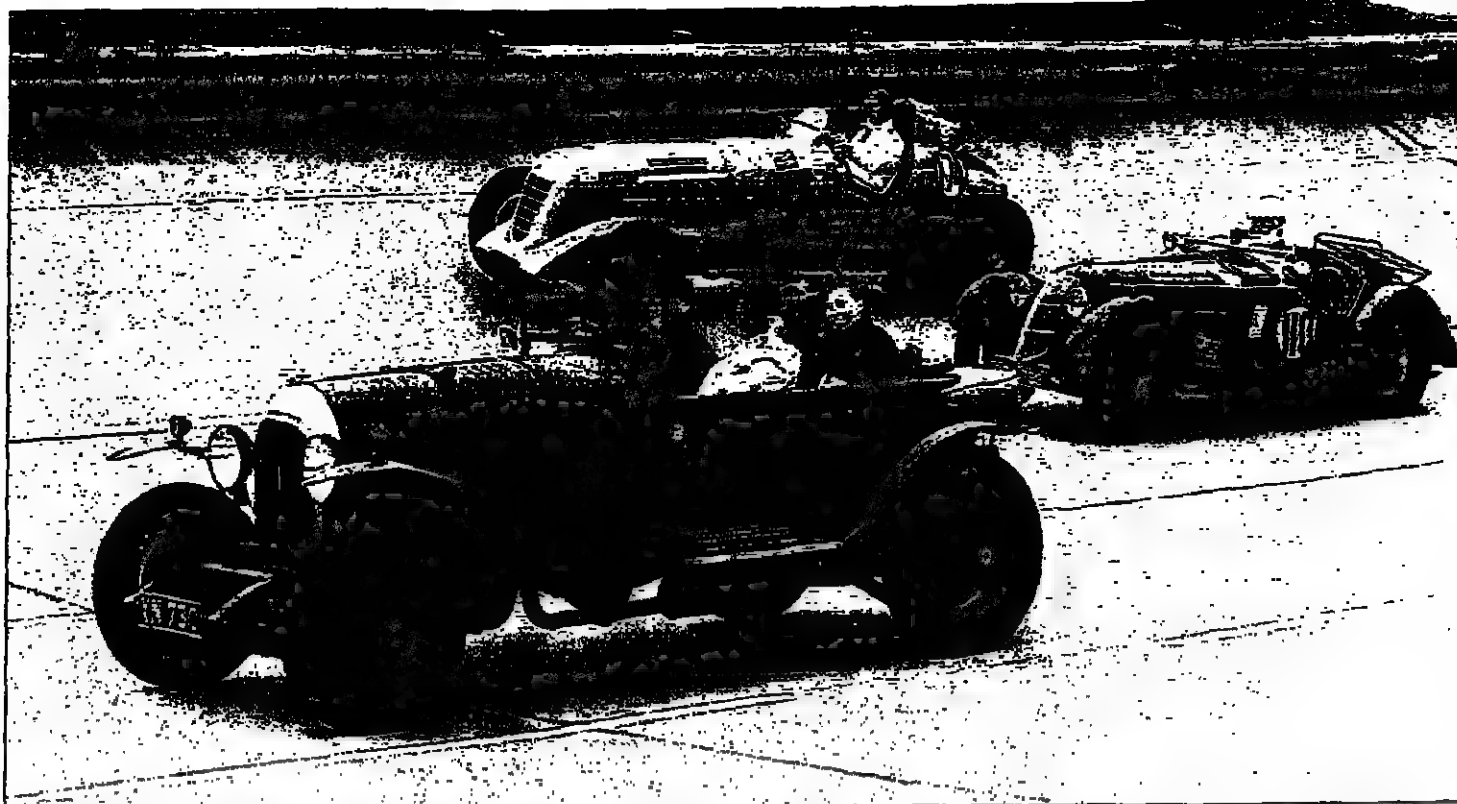
Rescue workers said there was little hope of finding more survivors of the earthquake in the Russian Far East, which is believed to have killed more than 2,000. In many places bodies protruded from the ruins, which echoed to the shouts of residents calling the names of those buried. Page 8

Dissident detained

Police detained a dissident who became a champion athlete after losing both legs when crushed by a tank during the Tiananmen Square uprising. Page 9

Peacekeepers review

The UN Secretary-General was finalising plans for moving peacekeepers in Bosnia to more defensible positions and reducing or ending the UN presence in some "safe areas". Page 11



The spirit of Brooklands was revived with a historic racing car meeting on the banked circuit at Millbrook, Bedfordshire, yesterday. The cars included, from left, a 1926 Bentley, the Bentley-Jackson Special nicknamed Mother Gun, and a 1936 Riley Sprite

SPORT

Rugby union: Graham Rowntree and Neil Back, both of Leicester, have been called up by England for the World Cup match against Italy in Durban. Page 21

Cricket: Northamptonshire extended their lead in the county championship to eight points after an exciting seven-wicket victory over Yorkshire at Sheffield. Page 26

Football: Bolton beat Reading 4-3 after extra time in the first division playoff final at Wembley, despite Reading taking a 2-0 lead after only 12 minutes. Page 21

Golf: Bernhard Langer won the Volvo PGA Championship for the third time with a total of 279, nine under par, putting him a shot clear of Per-Ulrik Johansson. Page 22

BUSINESS

Dollar fears: America's trade dispute with Japan over car imports is likely to undermine the dollar this week, with the Bank of Japan having to intervene yesterday to support the US currency when it opened weak. Page 40

Critical audience: British Gas has arranged extra security because of the large number of shareholders expected at its annual general meeting, which has had to be moved to a larger venue. About 7,000 are likely to attend to vote on executive pay. Pages 38, 40

Partnership drive: BMW has plans to become an equity partner in Rolls-Royce by the end of the decade in return for vital funding for new Rolls-Royce and Bentley models. Page 40

TOMORROW
IN THE TIMES

ON STAGE
Vulnerable, dedicated and ruthless: Benedict Nightingale on what drives Sir Peter Hall

WEDDING BELLES
Iain R. Webb on the most critical catwalk a woman will ever walk down

ARTS

Balkan victory: Emir Kusturica's *Underground*, an epic, absurdist comedy about the history of his homeland, Yugoslavia, arrived near the end of the Cannes Film Festival and claimed top prize. Page 13

Unwise casting: Eddie Izzard, the quick-muttering king of stand-up comedy, takes on Marlowe's Edward II in Leicester and looks distinctly unhappy. Page 13

Angst-ridden: Fortishead are one of the few acts that can reasonably claim to have both captured and changed the essence of pop music in the Nineties. Page 13

Englishness on show: The artist Mark Wallinger probes our sense of national identity with a keen eye for its greed, class-conscious codes and dominions. Page 12

FEATURES

Added risk: Dr Thomas Stuttaford assesses the danger of cancer of the kidney, to which firefighters are exposed, in the light of medical advances. Page 14

Back to front: Ian Robertson looks at the effects and treatment of developmental dyslexia and other reading difficulties. Page 14

Screaming bore: Who needs Lord Sutch and his plodding buffoonery, asks Nigella Lawson, when there are so many jokers in Parliament already? Page 15

LAW

Rich lawyers? Far from it: young barristers say they are struggling to earn a crust and being burdened by the loans taken out to cover their pupillage. Page 29

Broader church: Diversity in your studies and you can be a better lawyer than those who read only law, says Roger Earis of the College of Law. Page 33

THE PAPERS

The victory of 1945 was a historical rarity in that it brought even greater benefits to the vanquished than to the victors. It freed Germany and Japan of genuinely evil and destructive regimes and turned their great abilities in directions that have brought their people unimaginable benefit. — The Washington Post

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The Nazis set out to rewrite history, but were the Allies guilty of doing the same thing? *The Living Dead* (BBC2, 9.30pm) Matthew Bond finds much to smile about in a history of the British sex film. Page 39

OPINION

Clarke keeps his nerve

As the American and German economies show clear signs of slowing, the world as a whole is recognising that economic weakness, rather than inflation, is the more serious danger in the next year or two. Page 17

Other people's spies

The decision by the German Constitutional Court that spies for the former East Germany should not be prosecuted is a fine example of *Realpolitik*. It may help the larger goals of German society. For many that argument can never be sufficient. Page 17

Out-of-pocket money

The recession trickled down to the lowest rungs on the ladder of life more slowly, and until 1994 children's weekly wage packet held a generous £5.30. Page 17

COLUMNS

BERNARD LEVIN

Organisations giving themselves big-boy names such as the Animal Liberation Front send threats of murder, and they have come close to doing it too: bombs have been planted, and serious injuries sustained. Only yesterday animal rights activists caused £2 million of damage at a milk depot. Page 16

LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

As soon as the Serbs release the hostages, their strategic position worsens. If they lose the hostages, under whatever deal, they will have lost their guarantee. So rather than handing the hostages over as part of a deal, the Serbs will probably hold them until they come to see them as a liability. Page 16

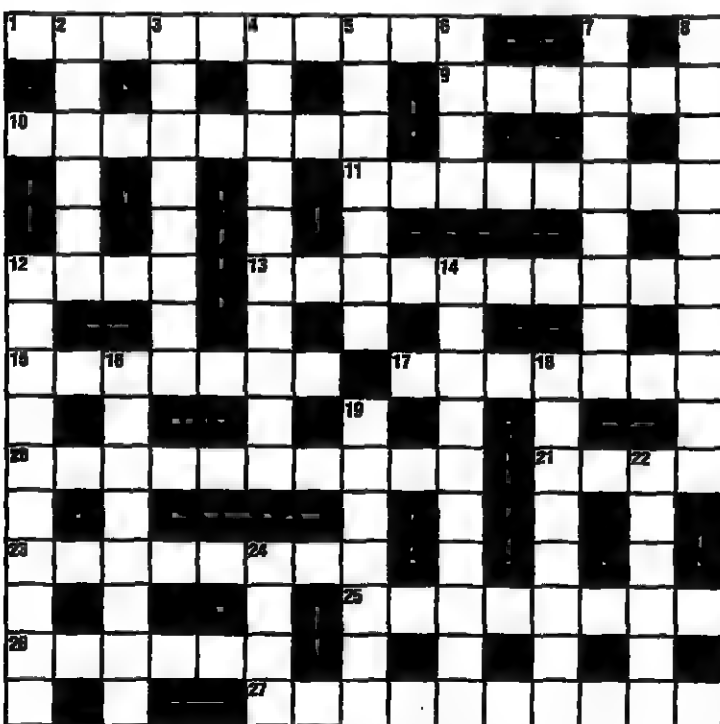
OBITUARIES

Jean Muir, fashion designer; Dr Irfan Ljubic, Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Erik Fredeng, animator. Page 9

LETTERS

Why there must be no compromise on Bosnia: MPs use of a colleague's name. Page 17

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,868



- ACROSS**
- House guide? Business guide? What a song and dance! (5-5)
 - Book by army commander is very old (6)
 - Drill-master's paintings popular in an American opera house (8)
 - Madeira promenade associated with Debussy's Gollwog? (8)
 - Old character part to be taped (4)
 - Rotten business! Such disorderly behaviour! (5,5)
 - Endless humiliation for fielders (7)
 - Viewpoint of sailor knowledgeable about being included in plan (7)
 - E.g. Sister Susie's main worry on the motorway (10)
 - Survive without the river (4)
 - Irritating when king leaves old ship, thus getting captured (8)
- DOWN**
- Fellow lodger's opportunity to marry (4-4)
 - One of five surrounded with ease, say, like Bucephalus (6)
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 - Fruit of the river (6)
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 - Agreeing to study the general trend (10)
 - Sauce served in vessel bound for London, say (7)
 - Bowl for white rose? (4)
 - It's the fashion to incorporate a valve in a war engine (8)
 - Accountant unpopular with librarians (10)
 - One whose charges may be the latest issue (4-6)
 - Shot gander, perhaps, being impulsive (10)
 - Fish for a country house party (3,5)
 - Lane arrival on end of platform — Crewe, it turns out (8)
 - Information gradually collected is not specific (7)
 - Relative opposed to scheme finally involving university (6)
 - Student abandons sweetheart — it's finished (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,867

FORAGE SCORCHER
I E O S A G O
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P A I N M E N T C O B L E R
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Y E A R N I N G I N G R I D

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East Midlands	706
Yorkshire & the East of England	707
Northumbria, Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside	708
West of Scotland	709
East of Scotland	710
Central Scotland	711
North-west England	712
North-east England	713
London, SE, Cent-S England, E Anglia, E Midlands	714
W & S Yorks & Wales	715
W & S Wales	716
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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Margate, Kent, 28°C (25°C); lowest day temp: Fair Isle, Shetland, 10°C (5°C); highest night temp: Exeter, Devon, 15°C (10°C); lowest night temp: Glasgow, 8°C (3°C).

FORECAST

General: eastern England will start dry and bright with some sunshine. However, cloud will develop with showers over Wales and western England extending eastwards. These will be mostly light with some south-eastern areas dry.

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will have showers, spreading to the rest of Scotland during the day. Most of the showers will be light but in the northwest they may be heavy.

London, SE, Cent-S England, E Anglia, E Midlands: dry, bright start then sunny intervals and isolated showers. Wind W to SW moderate. Max 19C (66F).

E, Central N, NE England: dry, bright start then sunny intervals and isolated showers. Wind SW moderate. Max 18C (64F).

W Midlands, Channel Is, SW England, S Wales: sunny intervals; scattered, mainly light showers. Wind W to NW moderate. Max 17C (63F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: sunny, mainly dry and showers, mostly light. Wind W to NW moderate. Max 15C (59F).

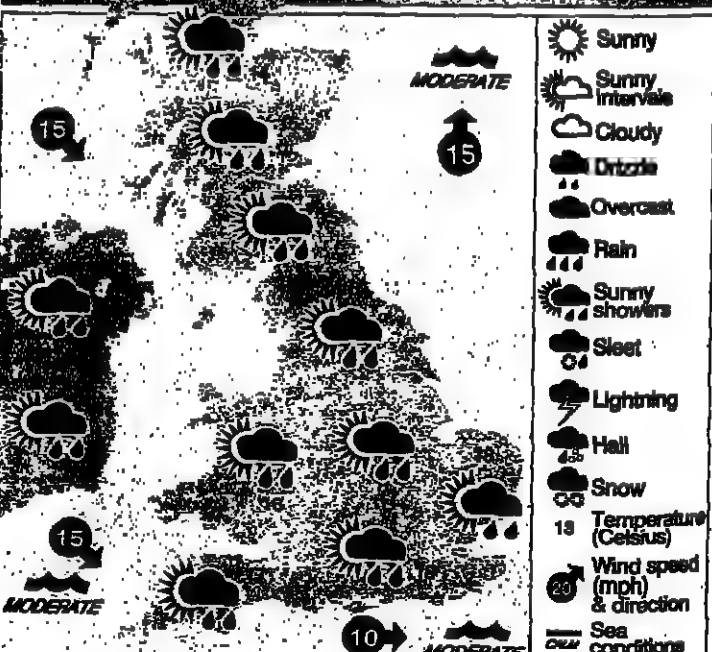
Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth: dry, bright start then sunny intervals and showers, mostly light. Wind W to SW moderate. Max 15C (59F).

Orkney, Shetland: sunny intervals and showers, mostly light. Wind SE light to moderate, becoming NW moderate. Max 14C (57F).

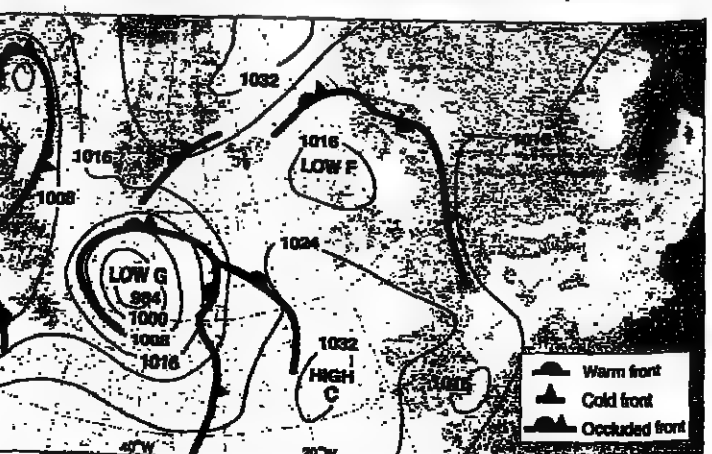
Outlook: bright with some sunshine. Chance of showers, especially central and eastern areas.

Pollen count: Scotland L; Northern England L; Northern Ireland L; Midlands M; East Anglia M; Wales L; South East M; South West L; London L.

FORECAST TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: Low F will move northeast and fill. Low G will push northeast and start to fill. High C will drift northeast with little pressure change.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2:11	5:51	2:24	6:04	London	2:11	5:51	2:24	6:04
Aberdeen	1:40	5:38	2:00	5:33	Liverpool	11:43	5:38	11:58	5:38
Avonmouth	1:40	5:38	2:00	5:33	Lowestoft	9:47	5:38	10:11	5:38
Belfast	11:36	5:38	11:49	5:33	Margate	9:47	5:38	10:11	5:38
Cardiff	7:35	11:08	7:50	11:00	Milford Haven	6:28	5:38	6:52	5:38
Doncaster	11:36	5:38	11:49	5:33	Newquay	6:28	5:38	6:52	5:38
Dover	11:36	5:38	11:49	5:33	Orkney	6:28	5:38	6:52	5:38
Dublin	5:27	5:38	5:48	5:08	Portsmouth	11:52	5:38	12:16	5:38
Farnmouth	5:27	5:38	5:48	5:08	Southampton	11:52	5:38	12:16	5:38
Glasgow	5:27	5:38	5:48	5:08	Swansea	6:45	5:38	7:09	5:38
Harwich	10:45	5:38	11:00	5:27	Wilton-on-Avon	6:45	5:38	7:09	5:38
Holyhead	6:43	5:38	7:07	5:27					
Hull	6:43	5:38	7:07	5:27					
Inverness	6:43	5:38	7:07	5:27					
King's Lynn	6:43	5:38	7:07	5:27					

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Tactical blunder that allowed passion free rein

There are moments in sport when you want to shout "Don't do it!" Seated far back in the stands, you can see the folly of it all; you can see the players in front of you walk towards the gaping manhole.

The England cricket team open the batting with Botham, or send in Trueman to speed up the scoring; the England rugby team take a tap penalty under the posts; the extra pit stop in Formula One; the intentional walk in baseball. "Don't do it!", you shout, and they never listen. And so disaster comes to them.

It happened like that at a magnificent football match yesterday. The Football League play-off finals are always better and this one, in which Bolton Wanderers beat Reading 4-3 after extra time

for a place in the FA Cup, was the better. But I think Reading would have won had they listened to my silent cry of "Don't do it!" They played a tactically inspired first half, a strategy based around two flying wing backs and much individual responsibility.

It was football based on improvisation and inspiration, the best kind of football, and it allowed Reading to come in for the oranges at 2-0. Perhaps their two managers, Jimmy Quinn and Mick Gooding, had a half-time committee meeting. Certainly their second half game plan was more careful than the first.

They opted to slow it down, absorb the pressure, decided against throwing men forward in



SIMON BARNES
At Wembley

mad cavalry-charging counter-attacks. You know, like the away leg in Europe. This is known as crossing your bridges before you come to them.

A third goal would have finished Bolton, but Reading were too canny to fall for that one. And their plan worked brilliantly for half an hour. But that left an awkward 15 minutes in which they lost the match, their hopes and their dreams.

The trouble with great plans, and

even with great skill in football matches, is that great passion is stronger than either. Or even both together. Once they had pulled back a goal, Bolton believed with passion that the force was with them. And self-belief became a self-fulfilling prophecy.

And passion was the decider. Reading had tried to take the pace and the passion out of the game and paid a dreadful price. Thus the game's real turning point was at half-time. Reading dared to feel

safe. It is not safe to do this in any one-off football match.

This rule counts double in a play-off final and the first division play-off is the high stakes game of the season. Financially and emotionally, it is as big as a single game gets in domestic football.

Reading will see the penalty save as a turning point. Nothing wrong with Lovell's shot, nothing especially brilliant about Branagan's save. He guessed right, got down well.

It did not seem to worry Reading unduly. They continued to run and pass for each other with great inventiveness. Bernal and Gilkes doing their stuff out wide.

But Reading retreated into don't-do-it football and Bolton brought on passion as a substitute with 15 minutes to go. This was best shown

in the passionate running of McAleer, the kind of foray known as a surging run.

Repeatedly, his mad, inspired charges down the middle provoked self-doubt and fear. Finally, they won the match. His run from centre circle to byline opened up Reading like a sardine can and Poateainen scored what was effectively the winner.

Reading lost by over-reaching. They lost by seeking to control the uncontrollable. Yet at least they have spared themselves the death by a thousand cuts of the FA Cup play-off next season.

Bolton, looking ahead, know that passion wins you matches on a single afternoon. But making passion last for ten months of weariness, disillusion and injury — that is another matter altogether.

French Open seeds enjoy easy ride

Bates finds little cause to celebrate on return to clay

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

THE British contingent, the lowest in the history of grand slam championships, lasted for two hours and five minutes in the French Open championship. Jeremy Bates, the lone competitor, and the oldest man in the field, was knocked out in the first round here yesterday.

His departure, which formed yet another demeaning comment on the state of the domestic game, may be his last at Roland Garros. After being beaten by Guillaume Raoux, the 32-year-old declared that "there is a good chance" he will never again compete on clay.

Since entering the qualifying competition here last year, he had not played on it until he appeared in Bologna last week. His fellow professionals were so unaccustomed to seeing him at such a venue that they asked him if he had inadvertently caught the wrong flight.

Nevertheless, he enjoyed himself there, in spite of conceding the first eight games to Mats Wilander, himself the wrong side of 30. According to Bates, they were each recalling a bygone age "when you just keep the ball in play. Nowadays, the others smash it but it never goes out".

Raoux knows the feeling. In seven attempts, the 25-year-old Frenchman had never managed to win a single match here. He and Bates, therefore, were not overladen with optimism when they met, for the fifth time in their careers, out on court nine.

From the neck up, Raoux, wearing round-rimmed spectacles, looks like a history professor. From the neck down, with legs that have the girth of other people's waists,

he resembles a wrestler. Suitably, his game is both thoughtful and athletically aggressive.

He is ranked 88th; his opponent 51st and both are more comfortable on faster conditions. Neither was happy with a surface that appeared to be too slow. "There were a few times when I stopped sliding and I could see the concrete below," Bates said.

Guy Forget, another elder statesman, confirmed to him that the surface elsewhere seemed to have lost the top dressing. Raoux was not unduly bothered until he had taken the first two sets, but he then dropped the third to love.

He required four match points before going through 6-3, 6-0, 0-6, 7-5. Bates intimated

Results from the French Open Page 22

that he may enter the tournament on grass in Beckenham next week, where he could face his new compatriot, Greg Rusedski, for the first time.

He insisted that they would not be colleagues in the Davis Cup. Bates has been contacted by the new captain, David Lloyd, but will reject any invitation to change his mind and represent his country. "I don't see the point because I might not be playing next year," he said.

He will continue his own career until his ranking no longer automatically gives him a place in the main draw. Apart from Rusedski, who withdrew because of illness, the other leading British representatives were involved in the qualifying competition last week.

Only Tim Henman won a match and he was playing another Briton, Miles MacLagan. Bates warns that the nation must endure "a waiting game" before the general standard improves.

"Even then, we don't want just one player, as always seems to be the case, but ten or fifteen". The opening day was otherwise the quietest in a grand slam event for many a year.

The seeds formed a long and tidy procession, going through to the second round with the minimum of fuss almost without exception.

Steffi Graf completed her comeback after a six-week absence and agreed that her main opponent had been herself. Thomas Muster dropped a set before extending his unbeaten sequence on clay to 29 matches. So did Alberto Berasategui, the runner-up last year.

They both survived and so, more easily, did all the other leading figures. Andre Agassi, the top seed, did not yield a point on his own serve until he was on the verge of taking a 4-1 lead over Karsten Braasch, the German he went on to overwhelm.

Jim Courier, twice the champion, was also too strong for Jeff Tarango, but he admitted that he was not at his best. Instead, he surged in bursts, taking the first three games, then five in succession to capture the second set and the last four of the match.

Courier, adorned in a black cap rather than his customary white, had one regret. Tarango, who reached the last eight of the Italian Open in Rome ten days ago, happens to be one his closest allies on the tour and he recently attended his wedding.



Graf smashes a serve in her opening victory at the Roland Garros stadium against Gorrochategui, of Argentina

Gracida secures Ellerston double

BY JOHN WATSON

THE celebrated Lawn Tennis Association's annual tournament at Ellerston, Victoria, yesterday when Kerry Packer's polo team, Ellerston White, defeated CS Brooks, who are put together by the United States senator, Brook Johnson, by ten goals to nine, to carry off the Duke of Sutherland's Cup. This was also a Queen's Cup qualifier, putting Ellerston in the semi-finals of that tournament.

The protagonists were composed of similar line-ups, each fielding powerful Latin American duos at the centre and two English players in the No 1 slots, while the two patrons occupied the respective back positions.

In the first minute of the match, while the Mexican 10-goal wizard, Carlos Gracida — riding the grey mare, Palermo, one of the beauties from Packer's priceless string — dribbled the ball the length of the ground to smack home the first of his many goals for Ellerston, the Argentine, Eduardo Heguy, No 3 to CS Brooks, sustained a heavy fall. After treatment, he was quickly in the saddle again but never quite played up to his handicap. His brother and No 2, Ignacio, scored eight of his team's nine goals.

ELLERSTON WHITE: 1. C Hyde (2), 2. C Gracida (10), 3. G Packer (9), 4. Packer (8), 5. E Heguy (10), 6. Back, 7. Johnson (2)

Retchakan sews up victory

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THIS being the first year of a United Kingdom inter-counties championship for women, it was inevitable there would be teething troubles as they took to the arena with the men who were engaging in their 55th championship. For Gowry Retchakan, Britain's best woman 400 metres hurdler after Sally Gunnell, it was nothing that needle and thread could not rectify.

Retchakan arrived in Bedford to discover that her county, Middlesex, had brought a women's team but no women's singlets. They would have to wear men's vests. Retchakan, as slight an athlete as you are likely to see, had no option but to get sewing. A size 14 vest had to be

tailored to fit her size eight frame. "It was not just Middlesex," Retchakan said. "I went into the dressing-room and all of them were doing it." By the end of the day, she was more satisfied with her handiwork than her hurdling. She won in 58.56sec but was not pleased. "I was rubbish," she said. And was the vest a nuisance? "My needlework is fine."

She was four seconds outside her best, but with good reason. Two knee operations since her fifth place in the Commonwealth Games last August had denied her any winter hurdle practice. "With the lack of racing, I died before the end," Retchakan said. "I ran too

hard at the start. Sometimes athletes want to start where they left off." Watching Gary Jennings win the men's 400 metres hurdles had raised her expectations. "The fact that he ran a personal best into that wind was encouraging," Retchakan said. "but I do not know how he did it. I really felt the wind."

Jennings, 23, produced a run which placed him seventeenth on the all-time British rankings. Furthermore, his 50.03sec was 0.01sec inside the world championships qualifying time. There was just one disappointment. He wants to go to the World Student Games in Fukuoka for which, strange as it may seem, the qualifying time is quicker than for the world championships. He needs a sub-50.00sec for Fukuoka and would have it in the bag had he not misjudged the clock at the finish. He eased up on the line as he saw it show 49 seconds. "I got a bit excited," he said.

Men and women sharing a venue is not uncommon, but racing on the track at the same time is a rarity. When the 3,000 metres walk was held as one race yesterday, it was the first occasion that two sexes have competed as one in a national championship.

Vicky Lupton, the first woman home, welcomed the move because normally she is alone out in front. Two weeks ago, Les Morton, a senior men's international, pulled her round to a county record in the Yorkshire championships. "If he had not been there, I would not have done it," Lupton said.



Jamie Brierley shows the form that earned him the inter-counties junior high jump championship

Success at last after Monarchs catch fire

London Monarchs 34
Rhein Fire 14

BY RICHARD WETHERELL

THE London Monarchs reversed their abysmal record to defeat Rhein Fire in the World League of American Football at White Hart Lane yesterday and keep their hopes of appearing in the World Bowl alive. After being outscored 68-10 in their previous seven games, they scored 24 unanswered points in the third quarter as one big play followed another. It was their first victory at home this season in four attempts.

Down 7-3 at half-time, with only a Don Silvestri field goal to their name, the Monarchs' first touchdown came via a five-yard run from Tony Brooks that was set up by a 45-yard pass from Brad Johnson to Mark Tittle. They followed that up with another Silvestri field goal. Then came two long touchdown passes from Johnson to Alan Allen that made the game safe.

There was even more excitement in the fourth quarter for the 12,342 crowd, the largest at White Hart Lane this season, to enjoy when Victor Ebuiedike, one of the seven British players on the squad, ran in from 46 yards for his second touchdown of the campaign. It was also the longest touchdown run in the Monarchs' history.

Debate continues into Hill's flawed strategy

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MONTE CARLO

THE inquest into Damon Hill's unexpected capitulation to Michael Schumacher in the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday continued unabated yesterday. Predictably, some chose to disregard again the overwhelming body of evidence in Hill's favour and question the Englishman's abilities. Others blamed his Williams team for the strategic shortcomings that ruined his chances.

The temptation to reach damning conclusions was fuelled by the fact that the race around the streets of Monte Carlo is traditionally seen as a proving ground. Only rare talents excel here and, because the expectation was that Hill would add to the five victories claimed by his father, Graham, in the principality, the disappointment when he failed was all the greater.

Schumacher's victory was undoubtedly an important psychological blow in his quest to retain the world championship, but it should not be turned into anything more than a hiccup in Hill's challenge. He is still only five points behind Schumacher.

The point has come when to question his skill and his ability as a front-line racer no longer holds water. On Saturday, he produced a peerless qualifying lap that brought him pole position.

Sunday was a different story, of course. Hill admitted that he and Williams got their refuelling strategy "horribly wrong" by stopping twice rather than once, as Schu-

macher and Ferrari's Jean Alesi chose to do. Several times last season, notably in Hungary, Belgium, and at the European Grand Prix in Jerez, Benetton outwitted the Williams team strategically, too.

It is not that Williams and Hill are bad planners. Just that Benetton seem more flexible and decisive in uncertain situations. If Schumacher is an autocrat, Hill prefers to rule by consensus. "I have a team of professionals to advise me," he said. "They give me the assessment I need to make a judgment. There is no single person to point the finger at."

On Sunday, this collective made a mistake. At one stage, for instance, Hill lost five seconds to Schumacher in a single lap when he was stuck in traffic that his lighter fuel-load should have enabled him to scythe through.

Despite that, though, the attention devoted to the differing fuel strategies has deflected attention away from the salient point that Schumacher stayed with Hill in the early stages of the race, when Hill should have been pulling away from him in a lighter car.

The delicate balance of the Williams-Renault appeared to have been upset by running with a heavier fuel-load than in qualifying whereas Schumacher's Benetton-Renault responded well to the extra weight. That gave Hill an understeer problem and may have contributed just as much to his defeat as the flawed strategy.

Foster falls short of long-course world best in Cardiff

BY CRAIG LORD

THEY changed the programme at the Empire Pool, Cardiff, to accommodate Mark Foster's travel plans and a Jeep was wheeled in as the prize were he to set a world record in the British grand prix final. But the incentives and the familiar setting were not enough yesterday to help Foster rid himself of the reputation he so dislikes: that of being a short-course (25-metre pool) swimmer.

Battling against the wash from the wall in lane one, courtesy of a slow morning heat, he fell 0.67sec short of the 24.27sec world long-course record for the 50 metres butterfly, held by Jan Karlsson, of Sweden, since last year. The Londoner, who joined Dave Haller's squad in Cardiff from the Burnet Cophall club last autumn, holds the world short-course record at the same event and was only 0.08sec outside his own British long-course record yesterday.

Foster has beaten Karlsson many times in a short-course pool before and, while a touch jaded from his efforts at an invitation event in France at the weekend, might have been expected to get closer to the Swede's best, given the familiar surroundings and that he had staid his intention of attacking the record.

Foster said: "I've still to get into my prime this summer season. It's early days. I'm learning something new with every outing and I'm only sorry I fell short of the record."

The comment on learning is a familiar one. Foster failed to make the final of the 100 metres freestyle at the trials for the European championships in Sheffield last month because he swam too slowly in the morning heats. He therefore has no automatic right to race in the freestyle relay at the European championships, in Vienna in August.

The grand prix final suffered from the absence of some key members of the British team for Vienna, most notably Paul Palmer and Karen Pickering, two of the main medal prospects. They will compete at the Seven Hills meet in Rome next weekend.

Definition change threatens ice hockey

BY NORMAN DE MESSQUITA

THE British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) has announced a change in the definition of an imported player that could lead to the demise of the sport, similar to that experienced in the Sixties, when domination by Canadians virtually priced it out of existence.

From the start of next season, any player who is eligible to play for Great Britain under international federation rules will be classified as British, without restriction. Hitherto, such unrestricted classification was confined to those foreign-born players who had played in the British League for at least ten years, but the association fears that any such ruling could lead to legal action on the part of clubs, alleging restraint of trade.

The BIHA has expressed regret at having to take this step and stresses that all its efforts in recent years to impose some sort of restriction on the number of foreign-born players have been motivated by the need to promote home bred talent and maintain balanced competition.

Unfortunately, several clubs, having endorsed such regulations, now seem determined to sign as many imported players as possible, and it would appear that any chance of success will depend increasingly on the size of a club's bank balance.

An effect of the new ruling could be a further escalation of demands from the relatively few experienced British players, which will make it increasingly difficult for those clubs with limited resources to be competitive.

Almost inevitably, this will lead to an elite few clubs dominating the sport, with those playing in the bigger arenas, such as Sheffield (with Manchester and Newcastle to come), and having much larger income potential hoarding "British" players.

With no sign of a sponsor for the British League and now this recipe for a competition dominated by the rich, the future of British ice hockey appears to be on thin ice.

Kent hope to break Middlesex sequence of success

By Simon Willmet

There will be serious money to be made in the first time the Benson and Hedges quarter-finals take place. Not only is the £87,500 prize money a considerable sum, but the game is expected to be a sell-out at the home of several counties.

Although the outcome of the match hangs on the toss, the game is expected to be a sell-out at the home of several counties.

Two of the best players in the world are expected to be in the fray, and the game is expected to be a sell-out at the home of several counties.

Counties meet at Lord's for crucial debate on way forward for cricket

Smith works for single opportunity

Alan Lee talks to the driving force behind moves to introduce a modern approach

Alan Smith has long been an easy target for those who like to berate the cricketing establishment. Visible and vulnerable at the apex of the pyramid, he has also been largely defenceless, a slave to the whims of the county clubs who employ him, yet accountable, in the public perception, for whatever madness they might perpetrate.

To be chief executive of the unwieldy and procrastinating organisation that is the Test and County Cricket Board has not, until now, been a job for a restless dynamo. A diplomat is what has been required and Smith has fitted the bill. But English cricket is being dragged, kicking and screaming, towards the next century and, to the surprise of those who underestimate him, it is Smith who is doing the tugging.



Smith looks to the future at Lord's, where the TCCB chief executive will argue his case for a unified administration, from club to county level

non-engagement that puts him at risk of seeming vacuous, something he is not. Capable of facial and bodily contortions suggestive of momentous decision-making, followed by an answer as equivocal as "yes and no", he has frequently resembled P.G. Wodehouse's Bingo Little, whose appearance was that of a cat which has just been struck by a half-brick and is expecting another shortly.

"A.C.", as he is known to most in cricket, suffers from being stereotyped and always has done, but he no longer rails against it. "I am well aware of the things that are said, but I'm not as prickly as I used to be. I'm quite relaxed about the personal criticism because I have had to operate within a system. There are a number of things that have happened while I've been here that I have disagreed with, sometimes quite strongly, but I am not at all a dictator and I have had to bite my tongue."

It is the "system" that Smith hopes to change as part of the reforms that will be laid on the committee table tomorrow. What most excites him is the potential for a deep and effective union of the disparate threads of youth, club and professional cricket, between which the routes of progress currently resemble a snake-and-ladders board. Hence, in capital letters and underlined at the foot of his 30-page presentation document is the key phrase, ONE GAME.

This yearning for unity is apparently not shared by all and Smith barely conceals his anger over the divisive tactics of the self-styled and self-important Test Match

marketing forces are dominant — "I can understand the criticism, but as long as I am here, as a cricketer, the game will always come first" — and he is loyal to the men he has appointed within the ever-expanding Board.

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THE TIMES
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TOKEN 3

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS FROM 11 BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm, good in places

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LAW

Barristers plead for sympathy and the new Legal Aid Board chief discusses radical reform proposals



Emma Akurwudike, left, Sarah Harris and Helen Valley: the reality is that junior barristers start out at the Criminal Bar burdened by debts

Legal aid heads for the market

Sir Tim Chessells must like hot seats. The new chairman of the Legal Aid Board has just come from chairing the group in charge of reorganising London's hospitals. Now, with the board's chief executive, Steve Orchard, he is taking on the task of testing the most radical proposals for legal aid in the scheme's 45-year history.



Chessells: back in hot seat

Reaction from the legal profession has been hostile, but both men remain sanguine. "I can understand people looking at these changes and saying they won't work," Sir Tim, 53, says. "I would have been surprised had it been otherwise."

Mr Orchard is more blunt. The reaction is "entirely predictable", he says, given the radical nature of the changes being floated, and carries a "whiff of vested interest". Both strongly support the need to raise standards and bring more accountability to the soaring legal aid fund. But they are cautious about embracing the blueprint too enthusiastically, admitting to a "question mark" over whether cash limits can be imposed on criminal legal aid.

It is the board's job, Sir Tim says, "where possible, to devise a (cash-limited) system so we can demonstrate that people are not denied access to justice, and I hope we will."

If the board cannot make the scheme work, it clearly has a responsibility to tell the Lord Chancellor that we can't. Mr Orchard says: "Cash limits are a party-political issue. Right or wrong, they are clearly workable in civil legal aid. We will have to think much more carefully about the practicability of cash-limiting criminal legal aid, given the potential uncertainty about demand."

A question is raised as to whether it is possible or not, "although the Green Paper expresses the view that the

agencies meeting these standards would be able to provide legal services. Some will fall by the wayside; choice will be reduced in the interests of raising standards overall. Sir Tim emphasises: "We have to make sure there are enough people with contracts to provide an adequate supply of services to the public."

The most controversial reform is that law firms and other "providers" of services will have their performance monitored and measured, enabling people to choose their lawyer by results. Mr Orchard says the board would devise "benchmark" data for the appropriate level of success in a given field of work. "If they lose their cases, they will lose their contracts."

The idea has some parallels with the health service where hospital doctors must publish performance data and GPs use this when "buying" services. But Sir Tim sees more differences than similarities. There is an aim to bring a similar market dimension with the same degree of "tension" in public legal services as in the private legal sector, where the client has an interest in how much money his lawyer is spending.

The two men believe that at least 10 per cent more people a year — from 3.5 million to 4 million — will benefit from legal aid under the reforms. Mr Orchard predicts that "there are major advantages for the public access to quality-assured services, access to areas of law that does not always exist at the moment, and the possibility of access to tribunal representation."

But they are cautious about rushing in too quickly. "We will proceed," Sir Tim says, "after wide consultation and testing, through pilot projects. Let's get a sensible debate going — informed by light and not smoke and heat."

Overpaid? Who, me?

Young barristers struggling to earn a crust at the Criminal Bar are hitting back over recent reports of high-earning Queen's Counsel for legal aid cases such as the Barlow Clowes trial. The "harsh reality", they say, is that they are working to pay off debts incurred during university, often do cases at loss, and will be lucky to reap £15,000 a year — before hefty outgoings.

The barristers point out that the vast majority of criminal legal aid cases are paid on fixed rates — so-called standard fees — which for a routine Crown Court case, such as an appeal against conviction, may be only £12 an hour before expenses are paid. For a serious case such as a robbery, the brief fee is £214, which covers just over six hours' preparation and five hours in court. Excluding time spent travelling, that works out at £19.02 an hour.

In a move to correct the record, the barristers are seeking to highlight their fees in the face of what they describe as a growing media outcry which assumes that "barristers are increasingly from wealthy backgrounds" and have little understanding of everyday society.

Three of the barristers, from chambers at 3 Gray's Inn Square, say that recent six-figure sums quoted in the press "have as much bearing on the junior criminal practitioner as the publication of the salary of a chairman of a privatised industry has on a middle-ranking employee."

Helen Valley, 29, Sarah Harris, 30, and Emma Akurwudike, 26, say "the harsh reality, conveniently overlooked by our critics", is that the junior criminal barrister, having spent a minimum of four years of academic study

and a year training in chambers, starts out at the Criminal Bar "burdened by debts". They cite the case of one trainee barrister, 24, facing a £12,000 debt before interest. She was educated at a comprehensive school, gained a 2.1 degree, then with no grants or scholarship had to borrow £4,000 to pay Bar school fees, £4,000 for living expenses and £4,000 to support herself during pupillage (training period). Before she had the opportunity to conduct cases in her own right, she had to pay £162 for dining (in the Inns of Court), £517 for court attire and £198 for books.

The barristers say that earnings of £20,000 to £25,000 a year could be reduced after expenses to £12,000 to £15,000. As with anyone else self-employed, deductions have to be made from fees for rent, paying clerks, administrative and secretarial support, income tax, travel expenses and professional insurance and pension contributions. "Health is a particular concern," they say, "because if a barrister is unwell, he or she is left with no income to meet these continuing expenses. Paid holiday or maternity/paternity leave do not exist."

providing a good service. At the same time, barristers are being criticised over the fees of Queen's Counsel, who can reap six-figure sums from long-running legal aid trials. Young barristers hunting their next brief at the Criminal Bar are angry at what they see as misleading media coverage.

FRANCES GIBB talks to young barristers, and, right, to the managers of the Legal Aid Board, who would play a key role in the Government's reforms.



Oliver Mishoon: Debate facts

Another young barrister, Oliver Mishoon, a pupil at 4 Brick Court, Temple, argues that criminal barristers who earn six-figure fees for big fraud trials can be counted "on the fingers of one hand". He adds: "They do not in any way represent the Criminal Bar as a whole."

Mr Mishoon lists the fee rates payable for most criminal trials, which include preparation, five hours (10am to

1pm, 2 to 4pm) in court, travel, waiting and meetings at court with solicitors or clients:

Jury trials: £218.21;
Guilty pleas: £115.25;
Appeals (against conviction): £115.25;
Appeals (against sentence): £115.25;
Commitments for sentence: £115.25;
Standard fee for court appearance: £80.50;
Standard full-day refresher fee: £156.00 (half-day £80.50); refresher if one-day case goes outside normal court hours: £234.50.

Under the present fees system, most criminal cases are dealt with by standard fees. The more serious cases, such as murder, manslaughter, rape and robbery, attract bigger fees, Mr Mishoon says.

"A typical example," he adds, "might be a week-long rape trial, where the defending barrister would earn approximately £500 for the brief fee, including all expenses, and £190 for daily refreshers, also including expenses."

Mr Mishoon, 26, who estimates he could gross £12,000 to £15,000 a year from criminal work, says that it is not uncommon for a trainee (practising pupil) to make a loss on

Neck and neck

A POLL for *The Lawyer* shows that Henry Hodge and Martin Mears, candidates in the elections for Law Society president, are running almost neck and neck.

Centaur Telemarketing interviewed 1,030 lawyers. Only 29 per cent had decided on whom to vote for. Of those, 40 per cent were for Hodge, 37 per cent for Mears. Twenty-three per cent favoured Eileen Pemberton, the third candidate.

Hanging stopped
THE Judicial Committee of the Privy Council last week ruled to stop the Government

of Barbados from hanging two men convicted of murder in 1986, in a case argued by Geoffrey Roberts, QC.

It stated that Peter Bradshaw and Dennis Roberts had been subjected to inhuman treatment by being kept too long on death row. A sentence of life imprisonment was substituted.

Hewson sues
BARBARA HEWSON, chairwoman of the Association of Women Barristers, who has alleged sexual harassment at the Bar, has issued a writ for libel against *The Sunday Telegraph* and its Editor over

an article by Minette Martin on May 7 headlined *Women Beware Wiltonia*. David Price, her solicitor, says: "My client is not prepared to tolerate attacks on her integrity and judgment which divert attention from the problem of sexual harassment at the Bar. No matter how uncomfortable it is for the profession to acknowledge its existence..."

CLIFFORD Chance has appointed its new business development head. Kevin Geary, 43, spent 16 years at Coopers & Lybrand before last year becoming an independent strategy consultant.

Access to justice

THE Oxford Union legal debate last week started an hour late after the coach carrying lawyers from London to Oxford was delayed when an armed raid caused police to search vehicles on the M40. Faced with 35 legal types, however, officers waived the coach through.

After a lively debate from lawyers including David McIntosh, senior partner of Davies Arnold Cooper, sponsors of the debate; Helena Kennedy, QC; Peter Goldsmith, QC; and Michael Beloff, QC, the union voted in favour of the motion: "This house believes that the British legal system no longer offers access to justice."

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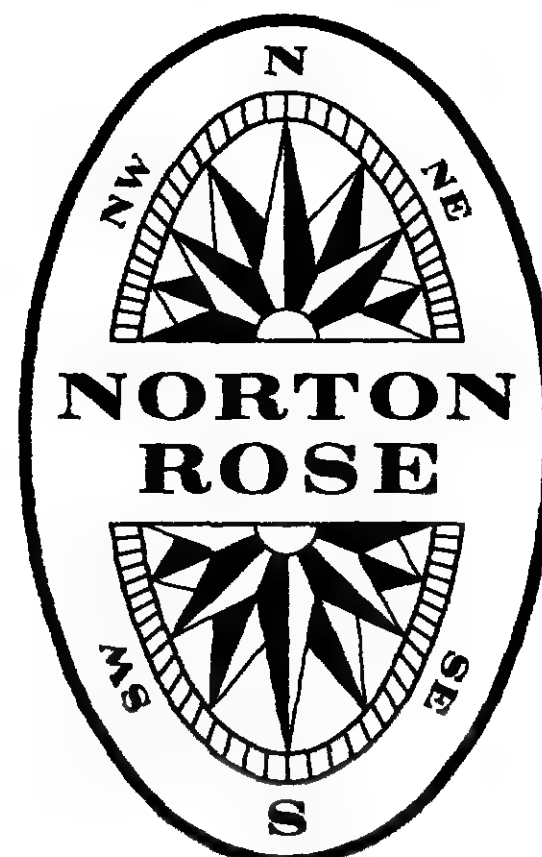
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Taylor, top, studied law only. Scarmann had a mixed degree



Denning was a law lord who rose to the top, having studied more than law at university



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A broad entry to legal profession

In terms of their previous legal education, who is the odd man out among the current holders of England's top three legal posts? Answer: the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth is the only one of the three to have studied law as an undergraduate. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, studied mathematics and philosophy at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was a maths lecturer before he studied law as a postgraduate. Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, studied history with distinction at Balliol College, Oxford.

Many eminent lawyers — Lord Denning, Devlin and Scarman, for example — rose to the top of the legal profession without the benefit of an undergraduate degree in law only. Of the top ten law lords, at least four have either mixed or non-law degrees from their universities.

In recognition of the importance of maintaining a broad entry into the legal profession, the Common Professional Examination, or CPE, was introduced in 1980 to encourage those who were graduates, but not law graduates, to enter the profession by postgraduate study.

So successful has the CPE been that at present just one third of law students who pass the Bar Vocational Course and the Legal Prac-

tice Course have been through the conversion course. New research has shown that an equal if not higher proportion of CPE students gain pupillages and that they perform slightly better in the two legal vocational examinations than do law graduates.

The College of Law's CPE course, which I direct, is a 36-week intensive course covering the fundamental areas of law and an understanding of the legal process. Students have a full year's postgraduate course with lectures or tutorials every day. It is difficult and tiring, but very rewarding. But now this method of entry appears to be under attack as non-law graduates consistently outperform law graduates in the practical lawyers' examinations.

Some, but by no means all of the members of the Society of Public Teachers of Law (led most notably by Professor Peter Birks, Regius

Professor of Civil Law at Oxford University), appear to oppose all accelerated methods of entry into the legal profession, accepting only the full law-degree route.

They feel it is dangerous to have so many lawyers who have studied law at such a fast pace. These

Non-law graduates can consistently outperform the law graduates

people are accused, contrary to the evidence, of being inadequately grounded in their subject. It is said that their entry by means of a conversion course or mixed degree undermines the full law degree.

Some critics of the CPE argue that it should be extended from a one-year to a two-year course so that more time can be spent

learning the fundamentals of English law. This would place the course further beyond the pockets of many aspiring law students.

The criticism of inadequate grounding is answered, not only by the fact that all intending lawyers have another year's study of law, but also by the performance of CPE students as compared to LLB graduates in the two legal vocational examinations of that following year — the Bar School's Vocational Course and the Legal Practice Course.

The figures for 1993-94 show that 87 per cent of CPE students passed the LPC, compared with 82 per cent of LLB graduates; 21.6 per cent of CPE students passed it with distinction, compared with 16.5 per cent of law graduates. Similar comparisons with last year's Bar Vocational Course show that although about the same percentage of law and non-law graduates passed the

All change for media lawyers?

New technology may already be leading to a single European media market

The media landscape is being remoulded by new business vision and rapid technological advances. Last week's government proposals on media ownership, along with the referendum on media ownership in Italy next week, reflect attempts by European governments to stay abreast of a rapidly changing market. Many lawyers, however, are sceptical about the capacity of legislators to make significant changes.

"In real terms, I don't see the proposals by Stephen Dorrell [the Heritage Minister] making much difference," says Daniel Sandelson, a senior lawyer in the media, tele- and communications group at Clifford Chance, one of the few firms to have a broad practice in this complex field.

Amrit Bahra, a lawyer at Hammond Suddards, believes that last week's announcements will not have as much impact as many people expect. The Government, he says, is "just tinkering".

The problem facing the politicians and lawyers who work in this field is that media issues are so complex that it is hard to bring them all together. The European Commission has been trying for years to produce a coherent policy for the creation of a single media market and has been lobbied remorselessly by Brussels-based lawyers acting for a multiplicity of interested parties. Though Green Papers have been published and debated, there is no sign of real action. "Frankly, it's difficult to know what progress is being made in Brussels," Mr Bahra says. "Progress at the Commission is slow."

Some London lawyers suspect that the Dorrell proposals are really designed to mark time until European-wide regulations can be adopted.

Technology, however, already

makes nonsense of national boundaries. Media without frontiers, coasting over national jurisdictions, is now the reality. As David Cantor, a lawyer specialising in telecommunications work with Stanbrook & Hooper, a Brussels firm, says: "Because of developments in technology, it is hard to tell how the dividing line between telecommunications and media works. But, clearly, the European dimension is very important."

The complexity of this field is stretching all those who have not deliberately set out to service all the market. Hugh Geach, formerly an official of the Independent Television Commission and now a consultant to law firms, believes that few firms of solicitors can effectively cover the whole business. Mr Geach says: "I don't think many firms have caught up with the breadth and complexity of what is going on."

One firm that has tried to do so is Harbottle & Lewis, which rose to fame as legal adviser to Richard Branson and now has a practice as diverse as its multi-faceted client. Medwyn Jones, a partner in the firm, says: "You have to be able to offer entertainment, telecommunications, intellectual property and regulatory advice, all underpinned by a solid company and commercial practice. For those firms with a background in these areas, this will be a growth practice."

Meanwhile, Mark Phillips, who runs the firm's interactive group, agrees that a cross-disciplinary approach is vital. "I started working with software publishing agreements, then moved into video games. "But that field is now close to film production, so we cross-fertilise ideas all the time."

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Advice at a price is cause for caution

By BRIAN COLLETT

OWNERS of small businesses have been warned to beware of organisations that charge fees of about £200 for specialised financial information that is available free elsewhere.

The information providers often make cold calls offering to find out whether a business is eligible for grants. They insist that the fee is paid first, promising a refund if they fail to find a source of finance.

However, the contract that the business owner signs contains small print making a refund virtually impossible to obtain. The guarantee implied by the cold call is that the fee is refundable if the business fails to get the recommended grant. The contract gives the entirely different undertaking that the company will return the money only if it fails to suggest a grant source.

The 70,000 members of the Federation of Small Businesses have been alerted. Stephen Alambritis, its spokesman, says: "We have reported all the scams we have found to the minister responsible for small businesses, and we always get on to trading standards officers. They can do nothing, but are made aware."

Mr Alambritis maintains that small businesses take the bait because they are told of millions of euros waiting to be claimed from the European Commission just when banks are lending less.

Other services offered are help with appeals against business rates, energy audits to cut power bills and tax advice.

Often, the cost of advice exceeds the savings, and much of the advice can be found without charge. For example, British Gas offers free advice on economical gas use.

Peter Duffin, a Manchester City Council trading standards officer, says that several organisations offering such services seem to be based around Manchester.

He says: "I am surprised at the number of small businesses that seem to have signed up for this kind of thing. People don't know where to look for information."

Grant and loan information is available free from Business Link offices, Training and Enterprise Councils, European Commission offices, reference libraries and councils.

London's lesson from troubled Teesside

CLEVELAND to Croydon is 300 miles, a fact John Howell knows well. He has travelled the length of the UK in the hope that he can spare the busy suburbs of south London the worst deprivations of the North East of England.

He says: "Cleveland has been one of the worst areas for social deprivation in the UK. In the 1970s it was dominated by a few sizeable companies such as ICI and British Steel, but they got smaller. During the 1980s the unemployment rate was as high as 22 per cent. In parts of Teesside, male unemployment was as high as 90 per cent — and it still is to this day. It was not unusual to go into a home and find three generations living there and none of them had got a job."

Mr Howell, chief executive of Teesside Training and Enterprise Council, moved to a similar post with Solihull, the south London counterpart covering Sutton, Croydon, Bromley and Bexley, in October. Now he has taken on responsibility for Lewisham and Greenwich from the defunct South Thames TEC.

He says: "Even by London standards huge parts of our area are reasonably affluent, but the boroughs are beginning to go through the first phase of the problems that beset Teesside and other industrial parts of the UK in the 1980s. Unemployment is 9 per cent, higher in Greenwich and Lewisham."

Mr Howell went to Teesside after a lifetime in industry. His employers included Tube Investments, 3M, British Steel, British Leyland and Singer.

The jobs that were being lost were manual or semi-skilled. A lot of people were falling out of the employment market because they



British Steel blast furnace on Teesside, where industrial change led to social deprivation

did not have the skills needed in an age of technology. Many could not read and were not numerate."

In the London suburbs it is middle managers and white collar workers who are dropping out of employment as a result of technological progress. Administrative jobs can be farmed out to other parts of the country, even to other countries, in an age of telecommunications.

In Teesside he was the only representative from the private sector among 106 civil servants. "They were having major problems

making it work and getting industry involved. The first thing was to put a private sector culture into the organisation. The civil servants were not computer literate and were not results oriented... We had to focus our minds on motivating people who had lost hope."

On his new responsibilities, Mr Howell says: "We have to bring about some sense of common purpose and working together. We need to do it now before the unemployment on our doorstep brings us together as it did on Teesside."

He believes the task is an urgent one: "As happened at Teesside, large companies are getting smaller and we need to work with small companies to make them grow. Things will not get dramatically better in the short term, but if we put our resources together we do have the opportunity to swing things round in the medium to long term. There is a danger that if we don't start moving quickly we will get into the problems that became endemic on Teesside."

RODNEY HOBSON

Data growth in the heart of Ribbles country

By ALAN JABEZ

ANTHONY and Katie Capstick left secure jobs in London four years ago to establish a business information retrieval service, using modern telecommunications.

As more business information was fed to on-line databases, Mr Capstick, a financial journalist, had the idea of using his computing skills to access and sell it packaged to a range of professional clients.

He found that while many business and company reports were available to all, business and professional people often lacked the IT skills to retrieve specific information themselves.

With a PC, telephone line and fax machine, he figured he could work in the heart of the country as effectively as any major business centre and so the Capsticks moved to the peace and quiet of the Ribbles Valley in Lancashire.

Their company, Instant Search, began with one computer in the family bedroom. It now has an array of IT equipment in a converted house at Whalley, between Burnley and Blackburn.

The company serves accountancy and law firms requiring company reports and profiles, small businesses checking up on rivals and journalists needing background information on companies or their directors.

Charges start at £14 for a basic Companies House report. For complicated research, Mr Capstick has an arrangement to use the extensive research facilities at Manchester Business School.

He has access to the Internet and can download any information to a customer's personal computer.

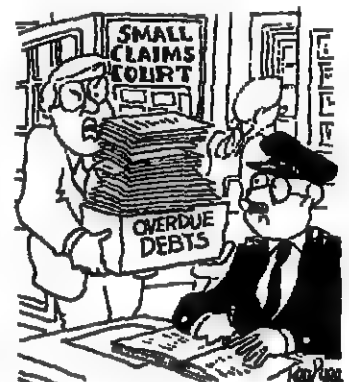
Payment is in advance by credit card — most professional firms now have their own company card

and it is easier to do business with overseas customers without incurring bank charges. The credit card companies were suspicious initially and turned up on the doorstep unannounced.

The rapid growth in the business means Instant Search is now getting more than 1,000 inquiries a month, including a surprisingly large number from Russia. Mr Capstick estimates the company is growing by nearly 50 per cent a year and expects this year's turnover to pass the £160,000 mark.

He has already taken on two additional full-time staff, but fears a shortage of suitably qualified IT people in the area could hinder future expansion plans. "If we continue to grow at the same rate, we may have to relocate the office to a larger town where people already have IT skills," he says.

The next stage in his business plan is to expand further into the international sector.



"Coming here is the nearest I'm going to get to a holiday this year"

State aid aims to hone skills at small firms

COMPANIES with up to 50 employees will benefit from a new £65 million Government training programme to help them to improve their skills (Rodney Hobson writes).

The Skills for Small Businesses project will last three years and is expected to assist more than 24,000 firms.

The scheme will be run by local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) or Business Links. They will help the company to identify the

employee most suited in terms of status and technical competence to train to National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) level 3 or above. When they have qualified as vocational trainers, key workers will pass on their knowledge to colleagues, and will oversee the company's training package, developed with Tec assistance.

Skills taught will generally be practical, but the method of training — in-house, off-site or by an approved trainer — may vary. It is hoped that benefits of the scheme will filter out beyond the 24,000 firms directly involved. During the three years, Tec's hope

to develop the programme by introducing networks, or consortia, of small firms, so that new skills can be shared with other workforces. A further idea is to encourage the spread of investment between firms.

The programme was devised because recent surveys showed that although small firms are aware of the need to improve skills, only 23 per cent undertook any training during the business's first three years.

James Price, Employment Minister, points out that small companies are central to Britain's economic competitiveness, yet

they tend "not to have the facilities, expertise or funds to meet changing skills needs."

Each company can be supported only once. Firms are ineligible if they are receiving other training support from a Tec.

Skills for Small Businesses was announced in the 1994 White Paper on competitiveness. It has since been tested and improved through pilot schemes by about six Tec's across the country.

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THE RENTALS
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COMPANIES

Profits ascent to continue at Boots The Chemist

BOOTS: Improved margins, cost controls and steady progress at Boots The Chemist should help Sir James Blyth, chief executive of the retailing to pharmacy group, to report a solid set of full-year figures on Thursday.

John Richards, of NatWest Securities, is looking for pre-tax profits up by 26 per cent, to £529 million (£484.4 million), with market forecasts spanning £520 million to £529 million. An improved dividend of 16.5p (15p) is predicted.

Most retail analysts are looking for reassurance on the defensive qualities of the key Boots The Chemist chain, which has performed well in the past in spite of poor retail demand. They expect Boots The Chemist to lift operating profits to between £340 million and £355 million (£322.9 million). Second-half sales growth of just over 5.5 per cent is forecast, after Boots said in January that sales in the quarter including Christmas had been up by a better than expected 6.1 per cent.

The healthcare and prescription business will have benefited from a particularly heavy winter flu season. However, there is concern that retailers of low-price items may be under pressure from supermarket groups after the recent profits warning from WH Smith, with particular concern about aggressive expansion by supermarket chains into the traditional Boots areas of toiletries, healthcare and baby products.

The Halfords cycle and car accessory chain is expected to have done well, but its car servicing business still faces problems. NatWest expects profits from Halfords to climb to £20.5 million (£14.7 million). Do it All, the home improvement joint venture with WH Smith, is forecast to suffer a £5 million loss (£12.2 million loss).

Strong cash inflow and proceeds from the £840 million sale of the drugs business to BASF, of Germany will swell cash resources, but analysts do not expect another share buy-back yet, after November's £500 million repurchase. Current trading, prospects and plans for new stores will draw attention.

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL: Major orders, including a recent large contract



Sir James Blyth, of Boots, the pharmacy to Halfords group, should have good news

to supply coal-fired boilers for four power stations in China, have strengthened the engineering group. There should be further signs of recovery today when the group is expected to report final pre-tax profits of £12 million, against a £41.2 million loss last time, according to UBS. Market forecasts range from £10 million to £14 million. A dividend of 0.25p (nil) is predicted.

DAWSON INTERNATIONAL: Analysts await any signs of recovery from the Edinburgh-based knitwear group best known for Pringle and Ballantyne sweaters after last month's news of a £15 million net loss on the sale of Dawson Home Fashions, its loss-making bathroom accessories business, to Spring Industries, the American textiles giant, and a further £10 million exceptional restructuring charge associated with the Blackwood Brothers closure. BZW expects final pre-tax profits, due tomorrow, to reach £12.2 million, against

a loss of £95.4 million last time, with a dividend of 3p (2.88p) predicted. Attention will focus on current trading and stock levels as well as prospects. A mild winter and tough trading conditions have taken their toll of the group.

MEPC: Acquisitions worth about £500 million last year and additional listings should have boosted the property group's first-half profits. The pre-tax figures, due tomorrow, is expected to climb to between £56 million and £57 million, against £45.3 million last time. A maintained dividend of 5.25p is forecast. Net income from properties is expected to rise by 10 to 12 per cent.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL GROUP: Thursday's full-year figures from the Durex condoms to rubber gloves maker should look better than last time's, when the group had a £175 million loss. Now, with its photoprocessing business sold and restructuring initiated,

pre-tax profits should reach £14 million, says UBS. A 1.5p dividend (nil) is forecast.

SIEBE: Healthy organic growth should help the engineering giant to turn in a solid advance on Thursday. NatWest Securities expects £275 million final pre-tax profits (£217.2 million). A 12.25p payout (11p) is forecast.

PHILIP PANGALOS

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Growth in US jobs forecast

MARKET attention is focused on America after last week's jitters on Wall Street over signs that the economy could still be heading for a hard landing (Colin Narborough writes).

The main US indicator of the week, the non-farm payroll data for May, appears on Friday and is forecast to show a rise of 173,000 jobs, after a small fall last time, giving fresh support to the economic bulls.

Preliminary gross domestic product data on Wednesday are also expected to show the economy in relatively good shape, with annual growth at 3.2 per cent in the first quarter, up from 2.8 per cent. However, the Chicago purchasing managers survey is likely to indicate some slowing this month.

The Bundesbank, whose policy-setting council meets on Thursday, may cut its discount rate, from 4 per cent, for the first time since March 30 after an improvement in west German inflation, now at 2.1 per cent, the lowest for more than six years.

Remarks on Sunday from Edgar Meister, a member of the Bundesbank board, reinforced the view that the inflation background is now favourable enough for further easing in key German rates.

Hope of a German cut could help reduce pressure on the French franc, as the currency markets watch for any indication from the new Chirac Administration that the franc fort policy may be eased.

Lower German rates would also ease the pressure for higher base UK rates. Official reserves are expected to reveal some intervention this month and figures for credit business for April are likely to indicate a modest pick-up.

GILT-EDGED

Stresses for entente cordiale on inflation

THE Government is showing signs of easing up on inflation. Although it has successfully reduced inflation even in the midst of an economic upswing, the public appear unimpressed, worrying more about high unemployment.

The UK? Well, yes, but it is a description that also fits France. Whether or not the respective governments choose to downgrade the priority given to reducing inflation will have a major bearing on the long-term fate of bond markets in both. France has more to lose: it is further down the track than the UK in its campaign against inflation. French inflation at 1.6 per cent has remained below that of Germany for four years.

Although the UK's inflation performance is creditable, considering that "core" inflation, as measured by RPI-X, of 2.6 per cent has been achieved against a backdrop of a vigorous recovery and sharp decline in sterling, it is still a new kid on the low inflation block.

Not surprisingly, this fact is reflected in bond yields. At the time of writing, ten-year gilt yields, at 7.81 per cent, are some 57 and 123 basis points respectively above their French and German equivalents.

However, if the governments in France and the UK were to downgrade the priority on low inflation, long-term yields could be driven sharply higher.

It is not difficult to see why the anti-inflation strategies are under threat. In France, Jacques Chirac won the presidency by promising to tack-

le unemployment. At a rate of over 12 per cent, unemployment has become the key political issue.

Although many of his campaign promises are regarded merely as disposable populist rhetoric, his sympathy for higher pay rises and his opposition to the franc fort (strong franc) policy has raised doubts about whether France will continue to follow the Bundesbank's path.

Meanwhile, in the UK, recovery has famously failed to deliver the "feel-good factor" and Conservative backbenchers fear they will suffer the consequences at the next General Election.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chan-

cellor, has dared to suggest that "if the British economy can carry on having a recovery of the strength that we have now, and in 1997, inflation is 3 per cent... that would be a fantastic performance". It would indeed be fantastic, but this implied a backtracking from the goal of reducing inflation to the lower half of the 1-4 per cent target range (ie. 1-2.5 per cent) by the end of the parliament.

A pre-emptive interest rate rise in Germany towards the end of the year could give France and the UK a nasty shock, knocking back both the franc and sterling. The readiness to follow the Bundesbank's lead by raising rates would then provide the market with a test of their anti-inflation commitment.

Mr Clarke could be forgiven for wishing that France would be first to fall such a test. Were France's franc fort policy finally to succumb to its traditional bogeymen, the Anglo-Saxon speculators, dragging down the franc and other ERM currencies, the resultant boost to sterling might rescue the Chancellor from having to make an awkward choice on his anti-inflation commitment.

A substantial slowdown in both the UK and France does not appear to be in the offing

A substantial slowdown in both the UK and France cannot be ruled out, but it does not appear to be in the offing. However, the anti-

MARK CLIFFE
HSBC Markets

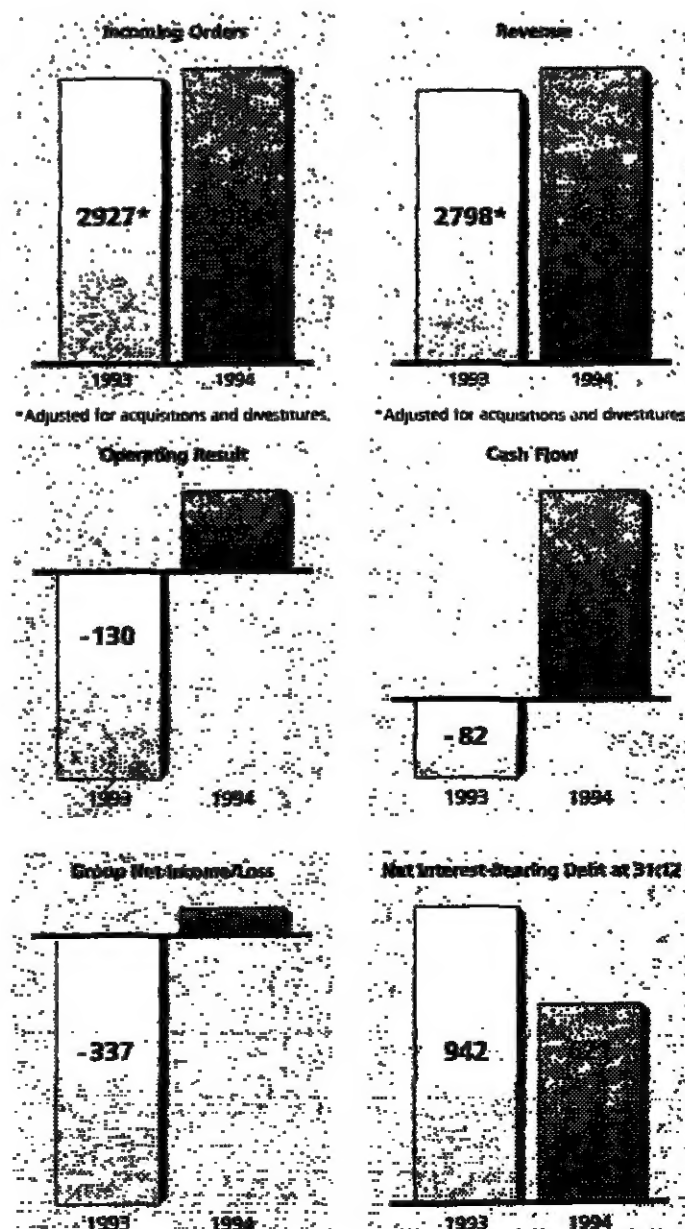
Ascom returns to black in 1994.



Fred Sutter, President and CEO

Financial Highlights

In CHF Millions



Commenting on the results, Fred Sutter, President and CEO of Ascom, said: "After two difficult years we are pleased to report a positive year-end result, with an operating profit of CHF 49 million and net income of CHF 21 million. Allowing for acquisitions and divestitures, revenue has increased by 8.5% to CHF 3.04 billion. Net debts have declined by CHF 321 million, providing us with sufficient capital resources to cover investments. These figures, coupled with recent business performance, give us good cause for optimism."

Twin Safe: revolutionizing retail banking

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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Aberdeen Trust, Black & Edgington, Edridge Pope, Kelsey Industries, Ransomes.
Finals: Babcock Intl, BET, Bousfield, Copymore, Monks Inv Trust, Phys, TIG.
Economic statistics: British bank groups' mortgage lending (April).

TOMORROW

Interim: Leeds Group, M&G Group, MEPC, Murray Emerging, Ecore Trust, Quadramatic, Rodine.
Finals: Borthwick, Capital House International, Cullens Holdings, Dawson Intl, Investment Co, Shoprite Group, TBL.
Economic statistics: Trends (May), monthly digest of statistics (May).

THURSDAY

Interim: ABI Leisure Group, Bercow, Finbury Growth Trust.

Lookers, Simms, Sticks, Unidors, Warner Estate Holdings.
Finals: Boots Co, Hambro Insurance, London Intl Group, Northern Ireland Electricity, OMI International, Pillar Property Inv, Powell Duffryn, Quadramatic, Siam Selective Growth Trst, Siebe, Wintrust.
Economic statistics: Purchasing managers index (May).

FRIDAY

Interim: United Drug.
Finals: Camellia, Property Partnerships, RIT Capital Partners.
Economic statistics: UK official statistics (these including bank and building society balance sheets, bill of exchange statistics, lending secured on dwellings, official operations in the money market, sterling certificates of deposit, sterling commercial paper and personal lending) (April).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.32	2.15
Austria Sch	16.70	15.20
Belgium Fr	48.94	44.64
Canada \$	2.303	2.143
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.35	8.55
Finland Mk	7.41	6.78
France Fr	8.33	7.88
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	377.00	352.00
Hong Kong \$	13.05	12.05
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Italy Lira	5.2849	4.5749
Israel	2735.00	2580.00
Japan Yen	149.50	133.50
Malta	0.600	0.545
Netherlands Gld	2.650	2.480
Norway Kr	10.55	9.75
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	nd	5.48
Spain Ptas	201.00	188.00
Sweden Kr	12.15	11.35
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	nd	6771.0
USA \$	1.701	1.571

Notes: For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE TIMES

RENTALS

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Revealing the truth under history's cover-up

Bank Holidays used to bring out the very worst in programme schedulers. A few old films, a seaside special, a couple of "classic" comedy reruns and it was Bank Holiday bedtime before you knew it. But yesterday's really wasn't half bad. True, ITV dug out *Dr No* for the umpteenth time, but then a Bank Holiday really wouldn't be a Bank Holiday without a Bond film, would it?

In the main, schedules ran more or less as normal, with only BBC2 having the energy to serve up something special with the continuation of its *Forbidden Weekend*. But more of its end-of-pier peep-show antics.

First, the untampered-with schedules meant that one of the quiet delights of Monday nights could go on with the serious business of rewriting history. *The Wild West* (Channel 4) duly hunched up its wagon train archive and rolled over closer to its date

with destiny at Little Big Horn. In fact, I thought we were going to get there last night — which just shows what I know about American history. But it also shows how slowly the director, Ric Burns, is retelling what you expect to be a familiar story but rarely is. It could be dull — and, just occasionally, it is. Having established a particular point of his hallmark mixture of vintage footage, archive stills and contemporaneous accounts, Burns thinks nothing of going back and making the same point all over again but seen from a slightly different viewpoint.

The result is that just when you think Burns' big day really cannot be put off any longer, Burns hails, circles his facts and heads back to the Black Hills of Dakota for another look at where it all went wrong. Wrong? Oh yes, sirree. For this is a very different game of cowboys and native Americans, the antithesis of John

Ford's *How the West was Won*, which BBC1 helpfully showed earlier in the afternoon. This is how the West was lost.

The cast is still the same as in all those childhood games — Stirling Bull, Crazy Horse and, of course, Custer — it's just the goodies and the baddies we seem to have got rather confused about. Next week, unless Burns embarks on yet another historic diversion, we get to the reason why — the battle of the Little Big Horn.

At which point, I seem to have little choice but to make some smutty link to *Doing Rude Things* (BBC2). After all, that is pretty much what Angus Deayton spent last night through a history of "that most criminal neglected film of cinema — the British sex film". Still, Deayton apart, it was enjoyably inoffensive stuff and probably just

the thing after an evening stuck in the traffic.

Actually, according to the expert David McGillivray, causing offence would be beyond most British sex films, except under the Trade Descriptions Act. Even in the pre-hard-core heyday of the 1960s and 1970s, British skin-flicks were simply not rude enough. "Every country in the world was producing sex films, but only

Britain was producing sex films that were not sexy and were cut to ribbons by the censor."

In the face of such adversity, there is a long British tradition of retreating into comedy and *Doing Rude Things* duly followed it. Star of the show was Pamela Green, heroine of such classics as *Nature Intended* and *Peeping Tom*, and possessor of an endless line of sex-film anecdotes. Now retired to the Isle of Wight, Green recalled the alter ego she created for some of the more demanding roles — by donning a red wig. She called her Rita Landre and invented a suitably exotic background for her as a Parisian trapeze artist. "She was the one who would do the wet shirts, torn skirts and corsets," Rita, apparently, also did something called "being into camera," which sounded rather advanced.

With commendable delicacy, Green guided us through the prickly problem that public hair

became for the female stars of early sex films. "It was considered indecent. Everything had to be taken off — unless it was for Germany, where you weren't decent unless you had it." But my favourite Green story concerned the judge who eventually dismissed the charges against *The Window Dresser*, but only after he had taken the jury to see it three times.

If such harmless films were the only ones stocked by our local video stores, then *Children of the Video* (BBC2) would never have been made. But that isn't the case. X-rated horror films are readily available in such stores and readily fall into the hands of those far too young to watch them. To find out why it is that one third of eight-to-11-year-olds have seen such films, the programme chose to interview only the children, a decision which seemed refreshing

but somewhat missing the point. Surely the parents had rather more explaining to do?

Having established the whys of the matter ("to act smart"), the young interviewees quickly moved on to more advanced topics, such as who decides what they watch. "Well, the Government decides what to do with this country," said one eight-year-old. "Yeah, but our mum decides what we do," replied her more pragmatic friend. One frighteningly sophisticated ten-year-old, who found television news infinitely more alarming than anything on video ("they're just actors wearing make-up, underneath could be a really nice person"), was even prepared to contemplate the unthinkable — life without videos. "I suppose — I would be all right, I'd survive — I could watch things like *Neighbours*, or you could just turn the television off for once." Now, there's a thought.



Matthew Bond

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (14566)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (10330585)
9.05 Conan the Adventurer (1) (2705586) 9.25 Active (1) (2705587) 9.55 Bird in the Nest. The first of the day's live broadcasting reports (1) (1764837)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7519818) 10.05 Playdays (Ceefax) (1773555)
10.30 Good Morning Summer. Entertainment magazine. Includes News, regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (54921061)
12.25 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly's general knowledge quiz with European contestants moves to this earlier time (1) (5100585) 12.50 Regional News and weather (15744634)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (86634) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (1) (56103540) 1.50 Howards' Way (1) (Ceefax) (2747221) 2.40 Knots Landing. American drama series (1) (5488100)
3.25 Cartoons (4341276) 3.45 Bird in the Nest. The second of the day's four live broadcasting reports (7139966)
3.50 Monty (1) (1) (3402858) 3.55 Fenna's American Tails (1) (1) (1515955) 4.20 Wait on Earth (1) (1) (7238498) 4.35 Maltin Martin and Her Merry Men (1) (Ceefax) (1) (1361363)
5.00 Newsround (8632180) 5.10 Active. Exciting sports and activities. (Ceefax) (1) (5960498)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (1) (190030)
6.00 Sbs O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (289)
6.30 Regional news magazines (851)
7.00 The Good Food Show. Magazine series on edibles (1) (3276)
7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (1) (295)
8.00 Due South. Comedy drama series starring Paul Gross as a squeaky clean Canadian Mountie working in corrupt Chicago. (Ceefax) (1) (420037)
8.50 Bird in the Nest. The day's third live report (1) (559479)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4127)

BBC2

6.20 Open University
8.00 Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7686450)
8.15 FILM: Jet Attack (1968, b/w) starring John Agar. Adventure story. Edward L. Cain directs (9417653)
9.25 FILM: Abbott and Costello Meet Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1954, b/w). Directed by Charles Lamont (894578)
10.40 Star Trek. Animated adventures (5496278)
11.05 Dot and the Snugglers. Australian children's adventure (8623498)
12.00 See Heart (1) (Ceefax and signing) (1) (29214)
12.30 Working Lunch (45740)
1.00 My Father, My Country. In 1938, three Australians explored the highlands of New Guinea. Fifty years later the daughter of one of the men retraces their footsteps (7458672) 1.50 Town Portraits. A look at Northern Ireland (1) (5984837)
2.00 Hairy Jeremy (1) (2265789) 2.05 Philbert the Frog (1) (1) (1265789)
2.10 At the Risk of Our Lives. The story of early explorers of New Zealand (9812030)
3.00 News, regional news and weather followed by Endangered World — A Kenyan Trilogy (8410295)
3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (409769)
4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (1) (524)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (108)
5.00 Esther. A discussion on men trapped in women's bodies (1) (4382)
5.30 All in the Mind. Lateral thinking quiz (1) (180)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1) (637856)
6.25 Heartbreak High. (Ceefax) (1) (357455)
7.10 The Ben and Stimp Show. Animation (282740)
7.30 East. The story of the black Pakistanis. (Ceefax) (1) (postponed from May 2) (837)
8.00 Taking Liberties: A Black and White Story. (Ceefax) (1) (7586)
8.30 Tracks. Countryside magazine (1) (2301)
9.00 Staps and Son. Includes a guest appearance by Joanna Lumley (1) (Ceefax) (2785)

BBC2

9.30 Out of the Blue. Yorkshire CID drama series. (Ceefax) (1) (560524) 9.55 Bird in the Nest. The first of the day's live broadcasting reports (1) (1764837)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7519818) 10.05 Playdays (Ceefax) (1773555)
10.30 Good Morning Summer. Entertainment magazine. Includes News, regional news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (54921061)
12.25 Going for Gold. Henry Kelly's general knowledge quiz with European contestants moves to this earlier time (1) (5100585) 12.50 Regional News and weather (15744634)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (86634) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (1) (56103540) 1.50 Howards' Way (1) (Ceefax) (2747221) 2.40 Knots Landing. American drama series (1) (5488100)
3.25 Cartoons (4341276) 3.45 Bird in the Nest. The second of the day's four live broadcasting reports (7139966)
3.50 Monty (1) (1) (3402858) 3.55 Fenna's American Tails (1) (1) (1515955) 4.20 Wait on Earth (1) (1) (7238498) 4.35 Maltin Martin and Her Merry Men (1) (Ceefax) (1) (1361363)
5.00 Newsround (8632180) 5.10 Active. Exciting sports and activities. (Ceefax) (1) (5960498)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (Ceefax) (1) (190030)
6.00 Sbs O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (289)
6.30 Regional news magazines (851)
7.00 The Good Food Show. Magazine series on edibles (1) (3276)
7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (1) (295)
8.00 Due South. Comedy drama series starring Paul Gross as a squeaky clean Canadian Mountie working in corrupt Chicago. (Ceefax) (1) (420037)
8.50 Bird in the Nest. The day's third live report (1) (559479)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4127)

CHOICE

The Living Dead: On the Desperate Edge of Now BBC2, 9.30pm

In his much-praised *Pandora's Box* Adam Curtis proved that the television was not just a visual medium, but could handle ideas as well. In his new series Curtis sets out in similar vein. His theme is how history is constructed and distorted to suit an ideological point of view. His illustrations come from the Nazi period and the Second World War. That the Hitler regime reinvented a mythical German past to justify its racism and aggression is undeniable. Curtis is on more original ground when he accuses the Allies of forging the image of a Good War by suppressing the evidence which did not fit.

Taking Liberties: A Black and White Story BBC2, 8.00pm

If John Ware's report is to be believed something very disturbing has been going on in the London Borough of Hackney. The abuse of public funds, the programme claims, is being covered up in the name of political correctness. Bernard Crofton arrives as housing director with, among other things, a deserved reputation for fighting racism. But when he discovered fraud and corruption in his department, because several of the alleged perpetrators were black, he was branded a racist and sacked. Dennis Bartholomew, head of the council's race unit, also ran into trouble when he tried to take action against fraud. He, too, was accused of racial harassment and lost his job. That Bartholomew is himself black failed to save him.

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CARLTON

8.00am GMTV (4070214)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1) (8924740) 9.55 London Today (Ceefax) and weather (1759905)
10.00 This Morning presented by Stephen Rhodes and Alison Keegan (88214) 12.00 London Today (Telex) and weather (8214450)
12.05pm News (Telex) and weather (1458276)
12.25 Emmerdale (1) (Telex) (5186905)
12.55 Home and Away (Telex) (7910943)
1.25 Rugby World Cup 1995. The second round of pool matches starts today. Includes live coverage of the Group A match between South Africa and Romania; plus action from the earlier game between Western Samoa and Argentina (60001127)
4.15 The Legends of Treasure Island (Telex) (1) (2225634) 4.40 Finders Keepers (Telex) (1) (4324382)
5.10 After 5 with Carol Barnes (Telex) (1086011)
5.40 News (Telex) and weather (447214)
5.55 Your Show. Members of the public air their views (360672)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (Telex) (127)
6.30 London Tonight (Telex) (479)
7.00 Emmerdale (Telex) (1672)
7.30 Millionaires: By Appointment. Sir Hardy Amis talks to Philip Tibenham about his early life and his royal connections. He also opens the doors of his Cotswold home and Manhattan apartment. (Telex) (1) (363)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Spiff and Hercules (7848059)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (89285)
9.00 Little Wizards (1) (48238) 9.30 California Dreams. Teen comedy drama (1747045)
9.55 Batman Gotham City's finest does battle with the Joker (8578532) 10.20 Mark and Mandy American comedy series (1) (781740)
10.50 Kelly (1) (5401108) 11.20 Pugsley's Summer (1) (7012030) 11.45 Wildlife. Endangered white rhinos are moved to safety (1) (2439363) 12.15 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (2574634)
12.30 Sesame Street (1) (74905) 1.30 Dr Snuggles (1) (27608112)
1.55 Barbapapa (b/w). A comedy short starring W.C. Fields (8853027)
2.20 FILM: The Loves Of Joanna Godden (1947, b/w) starring Googie Withers. Victorian romantic drama directed by Charles Friend (101789)
4.00 Jimmy's (1) (932)
4.30 Fifteen-To-One. (Telex) (1) (276)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are a woman and her adult children who could kill her because she has out them out of her will in favour of her grandchildren. (Telex) (8316843)
5.50 Terrytoons. An Astronaut cartoon (830295)
6.00 Babyfests 5. American science-fiction adventure series. (Telex) (1) (74255)
6.55 Terrytoons featuring Deputy Dewey (827276)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Telex), includes weather at 7.30 (82144)
7.55 The Sixt. Viewers' video soapbox (250301)
8.00 Squawidwaddle. All-animal comedy presented by John Sparkes and Peter Bales. (Telex) (1) (5634)
8.30 Brookside. (Telex) (1) (478)
9.00 Without Walls. Letter From America With Christopher Hibbert — Paula Wilson. (Telex) (1) (7837) 9.30 Without Walls: The Obituary Show. Dudley Moore (50672)

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ANGLIA

As London except 8.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (1759805) 12.00pm-12.05 Anglia News (1759805) 1.00pm-1.05 Anglia News (1759805) 1.10pm-1.15 Anglia News (1759805) 1.20pm-1.25 Anglia News (1759805) 1.30pm-1.35 Anglia News (1759805) 1.40pm-1.45 Anglia News (1759805) 1.50pm-1.55 Anglia News (1759805) 2.00pm-2.05 Anglia News (1759805) 2.10pm-2.15 Anglia News (1759805) 2.20pm-2.25 Anglia News (1759805) 2.30pm-2.35 Anglia News (1759805) 2.40pm-2.45 Anglia News (1759805) 2.50pm-2.55 Anglia News (1759805) 3.00pm-3.05 Anglia News (1759805) 3.10pm-3.15 Anglia News (1759805) 3.20pm-3.25 Anglia News (1759805) 3.30pm-3.35 Anglia News (1759805) 3.40pm-3.45 Anglia News (1759805) 3.50pm-3.55 Anglia News (1759805) 4.00pm-4.05 Anglia News (1759805) 4.10pm-4.15 Anglia News (1759805) 4.20pm-4.25 Anglia News (1759805) 4.30pm-4.35 Anglia News (1759805) 4.40pm-4.45 Anglia News (1759805) 4.50pm-4.55 Anglia News (1759805) 5.00pm-5.05 Anglia News (1759805) 5.10pm-5.15 Anglia News (1759805) 5.20pm-5.25 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TUESDAY MAY 30 1995

BMW sets long-distance sights on Rolls-Royce

BY COLIN NARBROUGH



Pischetsrieder: passion

BMW, the Munich carmaker that delivered the motor industry coup of 1994 by buying Rover for £950 million, is targeting a stake in Britain's noblest marque — Rolls-Royce.

Vickers, the owner of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, has so far firmly ruled out any plans to sell its elite car company, or any part of it, for the foreseeable future, a stance which BMW publicly accepts.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW management board chairman with a passion for English cars, has, however, laid plans intended to make BMW an equity partner in Rolls-Royce by the end of the decade in return for vital funding for new Rolls-Royce and Bentley models. The initial step will be for BMW to provide a large part of the funding for the £300

million-plus joint development of the Bentley "Java", a two-door convertible based on a BMW platform. Sales of the new joint model, which would be priced at about £100,000, would be aimed at 1,500 to 2,000 a year, more than doubling Rolls-Royce's current output.

Sales of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars last year totalled 1,402, only marginally higher than in 1993, and have more than halved since the beginning of the 1990s. Against this background, Vickers has made clear that it is unwilling to put up all the investment required to produce the new Rolls-Royce and Bentley models considered vital for the car businesses' future.

Chris Woodward, chief executive of Rolls-Royce since January, last week reaffirmed, however, that the carmaker plans to bring on new models more quickly. This would mean

every eight to ten years instead of the current 15 to 20 year cycle. Vickers said that no possibility exists at present for other companies to take equity stakes in Rolls-Royce, but it admitted that mechanisms for allowing the participation of other companies could be arranged.

Herr Pischetsrieder, widely applauded for running Germany's best-managed car group, which produced profits throughout the recession, is believed to see the equity stake as a first step to gaining control of Rolls-Royce. In his battle royal with Daimler-Benz's Mercedes cars, the BMW group still lacks the cars for the very top end of the market. Bentley and Rolls-Royce models would give it names to outclass Mercedes.

The decline in Rolls-Royce output and the lack of new models have given BMW the chance to deploy its management skills and

introduce economies, such as the use of its own platforms for Rolls-Royce vehicles.

The agreement BMW reached with Rolls-Royce last year, to supply eight and 12-cylinder engines for Rolls-Royce cars, involved some serious arm-twisting by Herr Pischetsrieder to prevent Mercedes from securing the business. He sees it as an important first move in his long game and it has already saved Rolls-Royce £40-45 million. BMW has agreed to put its know-how in engine-making and car construction at Rolls-Royce's disposal. It has also agreed to participate in joint developments, starting with the "Java" which is still in the evaluation stage.

Last year, BMW made a net profit of DM697 million on group sales of DM42 billion. Rolls-Royce and the Cosworth engine business made a profit of £21 million on £287 million sales.

Swiss to review bid for Holvis

BY JON ASHWORTH

SWISS takeover authorities meet tomorrow to decide whether to freeze a British bid for Holvis, the Basel non-woven textiles and paper distribution group. BBA, the UK industrial group, is making an agreed cash offer of SF500 per share, valuing Holvis at SF466 million (£247 million). However, International Paper, of America, which has a 25 per cent stake in Holvis, claims the offer is unfair to shareholders.

A ruling on whether the BBA offer will be allowed to proceed is expected by the end of the week. International Paper, which had an earlier bid on the table, hopes the Swiss takeover commission will either block the BBA offer in its present form, or rule that it should be put to the vote by shareholders.

The Americans had provisionally agreed to buy Holvis's Fiberweb division and sell the company's distribution arm to Arjo Wiggins Appleton, but BBA waded in with a rival bid late last week. Milan Turk, senior vice-president of International Paper's specialty products group, said yesterday he had been denied the chance to match the BBA offer.

International Paper had been offering SF435 per Holvis share, but said it would increase the offer to SF550 per share provided a "lock-out" arrangement with BBA is cancelled. The arrangement gives BBA the right to buy Fiberweb for SF250 million regardless of its bid's success.

International Paper claims the Holvis board has breached its fiduciary duty to shareholders by not seeking wider approval for the BBA deal. In an open letter to shareholders, it has said it is willing to raise its offer if the lock-out is removed.

Holvis reacted angrily yesterday, saying the BBA deal was irreversible. Rudy Wenger, chief financial officer, said International Paper had had ample opportunity to increase its offer but had failed to come up with an acceptable alternative.

America sticks to hard line on Tokyo trade

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
WORLD TRADE
CORRESPONDENT

THE Clinton Administration's hard-line stance in its dispute with Japan over car trade is this week likely to further undermine the dollar which was last week battered by market concern that America may be entering recession.

Washington shows no signs of softening its position over Japan and is shaping up for clashes on other fronts, with the European Union and other major trading partners.

Recent US economic data has reinforced the view on Wall Street that the economy could be heading for a hard landing. Boosting American exports and domestic jobs forms a key part of the Clinton Administration's economic strategy; this includes pursuing the policy of "benign neglect" of the dollar that has allowed it to slump to record lows and sent the currencies of its main competitors, particularly those of Japan and Germany, soaring.

Economists last week shortened the odds on the Federal Reserve starting to cut US interest rates again later this

Bank of Japan buys dollars

THE Bank of Japan, concerned about the damaging impact of the strong yen on the Japanese economy, yesterday intervened in foreign exchange markets, buying dollars at about 82.45 yen. The dollar renewed its downward slide last week as dealers reacted to weak US economic indicators and the escalating trade dispute with Japan. With London and New York closed yesterday for holidays, the currency market saw only thin trading.

year after witnessing the failure of its long run of increases, which started in early 1994, to produce the desired response in the economy.

Japan yesterday won backing at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva for its claim that the punitive sanctions America is threatening against \$5.9 billion worth of luxury Japanese cars contravene free trade rules.

Envoys for the European Union, Australia, India and Indonesia all condemned the US deployment of unilateral sanctions at a formal meeting of a WTO trade council. The 100 per cent import tariffs take effect from June 28.

Andrew Stoler, deputy head of the US mission, told the council that no WTO rules had been broken since the sanctions had not yet gone into effect. Japan rejected a US proposal that the two countries negotiate in Washington in late June and called on America to meet on neutral ground sooner. The council session also drew criticism of Japan for having the most closed car market of the industrialised world.

Tokyo wants bilateral talks formally treated as an urgent matter under WTO dispute resolution procedures and would have liked them to start yesterday. America, however, wants to meet in Washington a week before the sanctions deadline.

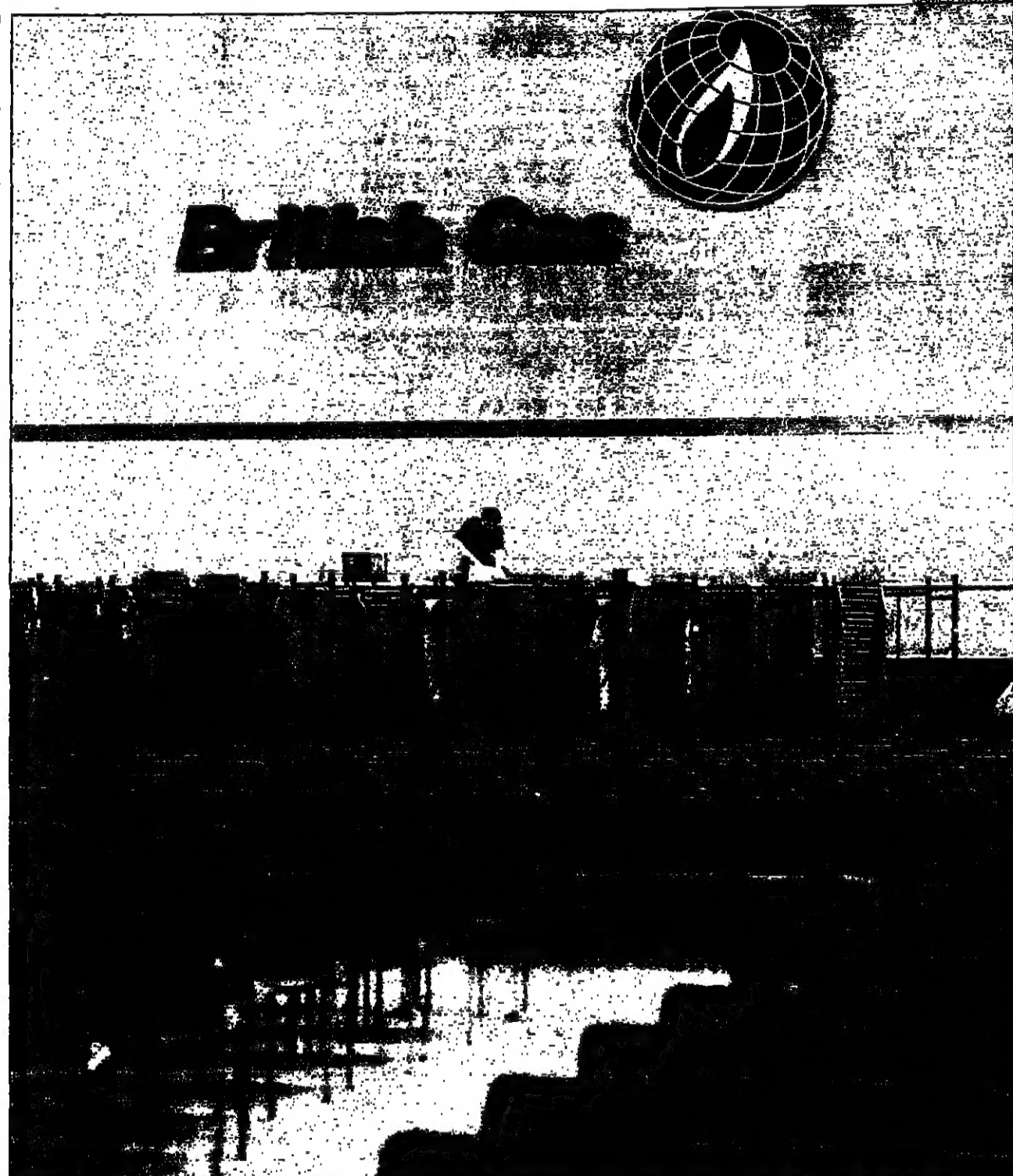
Meanwhile, Dan Glickman, the US Agriculture Secretary, will this week demand urgent action from the EU on removing a ban on meat produced with growth hormones. He will use talks with his EU counterpart, Franz Fischler, in Denver to press for an end to the ban which Washington claims is keeping \$100 million worth of US beef out of Europe each year.

And the European Commission, angered by separate air transport pacts initiated by America and six smaller members of the EU, has warned the EU members that it will sue their governments unless they drop the agreements.

Neil Kinnock, the European Transport Commissioner, will this week formally ask Belgium, Austria, Luxembourg, Finland, Sweden and Denmark to give assurances that they will not pursue fully fledged accords with Washington, which Brussels sees as an attempt by Washington to undermine an EU-wide approach to aviation deals.

Renato Ruggiero, director-general of the WTO, said in Bangkok yesterday that developing and developed countries had to show movement and flexibility in current negotiations on liberalising trade in financial services.

The WTO has set a June 30 deadline for a deal.



Calm before the storm: the stage was set yesterday for the annual meeting of British Gas at London Arena today

Gas army on the march

BY JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH GAS is taking extra measures to safeguard security at the London Arena in Docklands as thousands of shareholders prepare for what promises to be a stormy annual meeting. Security guards were out in force yesterday amid warnings that a "shareholders' army" was set to descend on the capital.

More than 7,000 shareholders are expected to attend tomorrow's meeting. Members of the Gas Shareholders Campaign (GSC), led by Joe Lamb, a retired university professor, yesterday attacked instances of "fat-cat greed" at a meeting in Edinburgh. He gave warning of the army about to march on London.

The GSC said: "The actions of the British Gas board have

aroused enormous anger on the part of shareholders, employees and customers." Anger is likely to focus on Cedric Brown, the chief executive, whose salary rose 75 per cent to £475,000 last year.

Shareholders will vote on a resolution proposed by Pensions Investment Research Consultants (Pirc), which calls on British Gas to revise its executive pay policy in line with best practice. They will also vote on proposals to create an advisory group to monitor the chairman and chief executive.

The resolutions have the backing of the Scottish National Party, whose leader, Alex Salmond, told yesterday's meeting that the investors' protest would send a

clear message to the board: that small shareholders, staff and customers, wanted "to give the executive directors a run for their money".

British Gas, which is urging shareholders to vote against the resolutions, would not elaborate on security measures yesterday, but it is understood to have placed an elaborate cordon around the arena to guard against infiltrators. Tensions are running high: British Aerospace and Shell have seen their meetings disrupted, and protesters driving a tank turned up at HSBC's annual meeting on Friday to highlight Midland Bank's financing of arms sales to Indonesia.

Gas bill, page 38

British Airways to expand workforce

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

BRITISH AIRWAYS is taking on 3,000 extra staff this summer — mostly in the London area.

The airline announced its recruitment drive for cabin crew, check-in agents and computer programmers at the end of what was expected to be its busiest bank holiday ever. Almost half a million passengers travelled over the weekend.

The jobs include 250 at Heathrow passenger terminals and 170 at Gatwick. The information management department plans to take on almost 250 new employees, and 170 temporary staff in London are being offered permanent jobs.

In the regions, 350

telesales positions are being filled at telephone reservations centres in Newcastle, Glasgow and Manchester.

At Cardiff-Wales Airport, some 300 highly skilled workers are being recruited to bring its new aircraft maintenance facility full operational status.

Last year, the company had 51,811 staff and since then it has selected 1,500 new cabin crew members.

During the summer, the airline is adding 6 per cent more capacity across its network.

Barclays offers strike protection

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BARCLAYS BANK customers who have cheques or other payments delayed by today's strike at Barclays should contact the bank if the delays cost them money.

The bank expects the vast majority of its 2,060 branches to open today in spite of the one day strike over pay. However, many branches will operate with fewer staff and delays may occur in the processing of payments.

"Any work not done on Tuesday will be caught up with on Wednesday," said a spokesman. "We are not expecting any delays of significance. We will treat any cases sympathetically where a customer has suffered as a result of industrial action. We do not

want our customers to lose out."

Branch managers have contingency plans to keep services in operation. The banking unions, Bifu and Unifi, are planning to picket 150 branches, and claim that 500 branches could be closed by the industrial action.

The strike is the first called by Unifi at the bank in 80 years. It was backed by Bifu after Barclays imposed a 2.75 per cent pay rise in March after staff rejected the amount in February.

Unifi, which complains that the rise is the fourth sub-inflation award in as many years, is demanding 5 per cent or £600, whichever is the greater.

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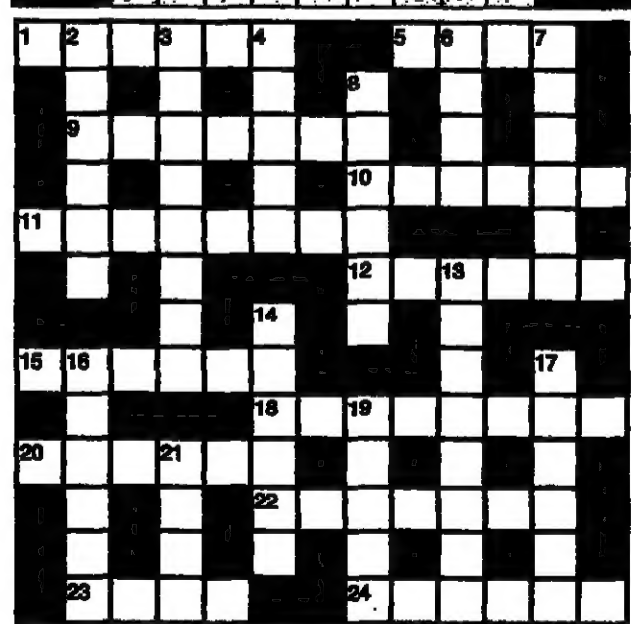
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BMT TOP

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 482

ACROSS

- 1 British soldier from Nepal (6)
- 5 Fish organ: noggin (4)
- 9 Shake (7)
- 10 Band of warriors (orig. legions) (6)
- 11 Sensible caution (8)
- 12 Tame, biddable (6)
- 15 Small representative piece (6)
- 18 French region, its cross double-barred (8)
- 20 Folded in half: one's spinning image (6)
- 22 Young frog (7)
- 23 Daybreak (4)
- 24 Partial refund (6)

DOWN

- 2 Improvement (6)
- 3 Immersed half up legs (4-4)
- 4 — Berg, composer: first English martyr (5)
- 6 Impatient desire (4)
- 7 Bay, film comedian (6)
- 8 Go back: become distant (6)
- 13 Underground burial vault (8)
- 14 Expunge (6)
- 16 Roughly: in the vicinity (6)
- 17 Unpleasantly invade, colonise (6)
- 19 Horseman (5)
- 21 (Wind) be in motion; sudden misfortune (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 481

- ACROSS: 1 Rose 3 Victoria 8 Gale 9 Florence
11 Thermostat 14 Unicorn 15 Disbar 17 Astigmatic
20 Tertiary 21 Poke 22 Patience 23 Iris
- DOWN: 1 Rightful 2 Solvency 4 Ill-use 5 Terra firma
6 Ring 7 Avar 10 Impressive 12 Abattoir 13 Crackers
16 Cifric 18 Stop 19 Grit

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